n.d.

Dear Sister Lucy

I am sorry to hear that you are so much afflicted, with sores and bruises, I think think your doctor must have been a numskull, to make such a blunder about your teeth, but I am glad to hear that your hands have got well; you must bear afflction with patience and get over it as well as you can & as soon. Have you finished your lamp stand? Are you able to help Mother a great deal? I send you the Juvenile Lyre which you must make much of. You must try to improve every day in cultivating both your mind and heart; the former by studying diligently, and reading useful b the latter, by striving to be gentle mild, amiable, cheerful, & industrious and winning in all your behaviour these last qualities increase fastest by practice. I have written before about the girl who is coming to stay with A. her name is Abigail Searles a bright interesting girl about 13 years A. made her parents the offer to

Sister Ann

Miss Lucy H. Metcalf
Mich.
Mi.

have her stay a year, when they were there; her own mother is dead and her parents have six children younger than herself. I hardly think she will be spared so long as a year though it will be an excellent chance for her. Perhaps Mother will let you come, when she goes back if she comes as I hope she will by that time. Tell Eliab that I meant to write a little to him, but have not time, this is to him as well as you, he too must improve all his chances for studying, and practise being a good boy both of you remember and be very dutiful to Mother and obedient to Charles and write to me & tell Isaac too as soon as he has read through his Student's Manual twice, tell him to read through the chapter on reading first. Your affectionate Sister

E. A. Rich

L. H. M.
E. W. M.

Sister Ann

1842

~~My dear Lucy~~

Milo August 2^d^ '42

My dear sister Lucy

What a nice girl you, to overlook and pass by my negligence and inability to write you, and send me such a nice good letter, warm from the heart. I am really delighted with your generousity. You say it is but a short time since there seemed to be a great deal of religious interest and feeling among the people, but how soon it all died away. I presume you refer to the time of the protracted meeting when, surely there was deep feeling, and such feeling as I, presume that Christians here never before experienced. And what was that feeling? Was it not ~~xxx~~ the feeling of overwhelming joy that God ~~had~~ had been pleased to answer our prayers, that sinners were finding the Saviour to the joy of their souls; and a willingness to spend and be spent in the service of the Redeemer? You probably did not enjoy as much at that time as others did who were eye witnesses to the scene. My own feelings at that time are utterly indescribable. I think I felt very much as the people at mount Sinai felt when the Lord appeared in such glory, that even Moses quaked and trembled and as the disciples felt when their hearts burned within them as He talked with them by the way. True this feeling did in a measure subside and I think it necessary that it should for the weakness of flesh and blood would

not have ~~borne~~ a continued feeling of such intensity. I know it is my privilige to pray without ceasing, and to have faith in constant exercise; but ~~such~~ I am so constituted that I cannot at all times have the same feeling or at least the same degree of feeling that I had then, If you refer to time before the meeting, so far as I know, there is not less engagedness in the cause. (with the exception of Ellen) But the question arises with me — is not God waiting for us to do something, that we have not yet done? does not he require more of us after such a manifestation of his love and power? and what is it that he requires? Is it not the right kind of prayer and the right union of prayer? If our prayers were right would sinners help crying out "what must I do to be saved"?
O when shall an acceptable petition be offered? When shall christians at one and the same time sit at the Saviour's feet? Is not that the place for us to sit continually? When we order our "conversation aright" surely we "shall see the salvation of God". — Yes Lucy let us unite our prayers for a spirit of prayer and let us pray the wrestling, agonizing prayer which takes no denial "Whatsoever we ask in the name of Christ it shall be given us. —

You say you hope to enjoy real happiness in a week from next Sabbath and so do I though I dont know as I feel like saying "Here let our hearts begin" — but rather ~~let~~ "Here let them continue to flow and sink within us While we his death record. As to Mr Foss' remarks after prayer I think they were in the main very good; but I do not think that we cannot offer a sincere prayer without giving away by ourselves; if we cannot surely we ought not to pray without ceasing, for we cannot be social and we ought to offer no

other than sincere prayer - Stated seasons of devotion ought to be observed by us, and will be if our hearts are right in the sight of God but even then I think there may be as much insincerity in our prayers as at any other time and as little fervency. Lucy, what is sincere prayer? what does it imply? do we comprehend its full meaning? ——

I went to meeting last Sabbath and though I heard Mr Page preach and, as I view it, pervert one of the fundamental doctrines of the Bible yet it was a happy day to me — and indeed the last four days have been very happy ones. Why does God grant to me such communications of his love and grace? is it indeed real happiness that I enjoy or is it only the delusion of a deceitful heart or one of the wiles of the adversary? Lucy did you ever sit with the Saviour and talk to him face to face? O what a heart mine is that is no more willing to do His will How entirely short do I come of manifesting His spirit in my daily walk and conversation. —— One of Mr Page's statements was, that "the will is entirely controled by the affections" — and admitting that to be true and carry out his ideas we should (I think) do away our moral agency and of course our accountability. For my part I was willing there should be no more persons there to hear him. What do you think Lucy of Mr Sewall's remarks upon our speaking in meeting? as for myself I cannot find that I differ from him. I perfectly agree with Mr Searles also that a spirit of sociability ought to be cultivated by the members of our church and not only towards each other but towards impenitent

Bangor Nov. 28th 1842

Dear Sister Lucy

I received your letter this morning, for which I am much obliged – I was very glad to hear the various items of information. I heard that you were at Foxcroft at the Installation: I should think from your account, you had quite a 'joyful' time though rather wet. The boys wrote me a letter, by the delegate from here, I suppose they are enjoying themselves much, and I hope improving well: I think it a pity that they have not engaged schools before this, I am afraid they will not succeed in getting any: It seems to me that the subject of Isaac's going to College requires prayerful deliberation; – I feel by no means sure that it is best, though far from being sure that it is not best. ———

I should like to have heard more particulars about the 'home concerns' how you like the stove? Is the bed out? as it is in vain to expect Almeida to do such a thing as write a letter, – you should tell all about her welfare. I suppose Mother's sore eyes are occasioned by her spectacles not fitting, and if she will send them down, I will change them if she can give directions about it so that I can know what to get: Does Isaac want his eight dollars? I can let him have it, I expect, at the middle or end of the term.

The term is to be but 21 weeks so that the week's vacation comes a week sooner than I expected, being at the end of this week.

this is an answer

for this, and several other reasons which I will name, I think it not best to go home until the end of the term, even supposing this would reach you in season, which it will probably will not. Next Sabbath is communion, and I was absent from the last and do'nt want to be away this time. — it would make a great deal of trouble which is hardly worth while for so short a time and there would be danger of blocking storms or uncomfortable weather to get back; I have had a severe cold for about a fortnight, with a little touch of the phthisic, but it is better now: But my principal reason for not coming home now, is, that I think more and more, that I shall not keep this school after this term: I do not feel any interest hardly in it, it is tedious business: schoolteaching is always a thankless office, ~~but~~ and it seems to me, in my case peculiarly so, I do'nt feel, nor ca'nt work myself into any ambition to be a famous teacher, to raise the character of schools, to find out and adopt the best methods of teaching &c.&c. as a teacher should in order to be popular, or indeed useful in his vocation, so I think I had better retire from public life into the shades of obscurity, and give place to some youthful and ambitious competitor, who will strain every nerve, to win fame and a great name. My school is not just such a one as I want if I still continue teaching all the time; it is so near Mr. Littlefield's in every sense of the word as to be in every thing cast into the shade, and get no credit for the little good I do: Mr. L. visited my school the day before Thanksgiving (he gave his scholars that day) the most unfavourable time he could have chosen, many of the best scholars were absent — the room was dirty, because several scholars

had staid at noon the day before, and scattered papers &c. I apologized for the looks of the room, and he talked to the scholars a great while upon saying that a girl had not the least particle of neatness about her who should drop a paper on the floor he talked to them nearly an hour about every thing, what they must learn and unlearn in order to enter his school, but it was all meant kindly on his part I have no doubt, and perhaps may do good, but it was ~~at~~ under all the circumstances, very annoying to me: but enough of such matters, The Lyceum begins tomorrow evening, and promises to be interesting and I hope I shall have opportunity to attend: there is to be a sort of literary society formed to which I have been invited, to meet one evening in a week for reading and intellectual conversation consisting of t[illegible] or twelve perhaps, some students, some gentlemen with their wi[illegible] some young ladies: the ladies to knit for the Seminary: I mean to join them. I like my boarding place very well, find it very convenient for school and meeting, as to singing, we have some fine times we have almost a choir among ourselves, there are five young gentlemen, - boarders all singers, one plays on the flute, the eldest daughter plays on the piano elegantly, Harriet 12 years old, sings beautifully and plays some Anna 9, sings well, and Caddy (Caroline) three, can sing 'O be joyful' at a rate great the father and mother are both singers, so we make some noise some 'times'

I am somewhat surprised to hear of Ellen's engagement, guess it suits her; I should not think Olive and Jo Hill would go well together Theodore F is a fool to choose a Heald before Naomi but there is no accounting for such matters: ———

I suppose Mother and Almeda won't feel slighted that this letter is all directed to you since they neither wrote any to me in the one to which this is an answer.

My love to all the [illegible]s.

BANGOR
1
Me

6

Mrs. Anna M. Metcalf
Milo Me.

Sister Anne
Feb. 28th 1842.

Racine Feb 4th 1850

Dear Sister

(Lucy)

Can it be that a whole month and more, has elapsed, since your last letter came to hand: I thought it long in coming, but think your excuse quite admissible, but shall in future claim the performance of your promise to do better in writing; Your time must have been fully occupied, your mind of course engrossed with the arrangements of fixing ~~a~~ the home, getting settled to housekeeping. —

I should like to have been there too. I think your health must be much firmer than usual, or you could not get through with so much: it seems you did make yourself sick. Your picture of your "home" is a very pleasant one, — do'nt know how you could have a pleasanter house. how delightful it will be there next summer much more desirable than a house in Bangor. I am glad Jane is able to be of use to you. She owes a debt of gratitude to Mother for her faithful and judicious training. What an important bearing will the last two or three years ~~of her life~~ have on the whole life of that child. Habits of industry early implanted are worth much simply for its effect upon the mind and character. It is an evil that I have seen, for girls and even young ladies to spend their time in any other way rather than in making themselves useful.

I have received two letters from E. Doe since I wrote you, one from Mass. and one from Portland. I suppose she has returned to B. perhaps you have seen her. I intend writing her soon.

The school is just as usual, some trying, some pleasant: I do not visit much — have not much companionship in the family. — I do not have time to read much. Last week a donation party here: had quite a time helping about a dozen ladies cut cake and arrange tables: the donation amounted to $160. 50 in money. I do'nt think I really approve of them: but liked it well enough myself: it gives me another e

I hope Samuel will excuse my nonsense and ^Lott^ write me soon.

The days and weeks pass on swiftly with me, in a sort of monotonous, dreamy way with little to give variety or much of zest to life, except singing, in that I really take pleasure, I have practised so much of late that I have much improved my knowledge and skill, and my voice too somewhat. I wish you would send me the notes and words of that little Cherokee song that you know; I can sing a new tune by note readily if not quite difficult. in church we sing in Mendelshon collection: have you seen it?

I have been to three large fashionable parties this winter, at one of which after we left; (i.e.) Mr. & Mrs. H. & I, at eleven, some black musicians came with guitar and fiddle and most of the night was spent in dancing:- at a house where both were professors of religion this to gratify the children. Among the pleasure loving part of community there has been a constant round of gay parties with dancing to a late hour and drinking! Some professors of religion join in such scenes; one wealthy widow who has a daughter married here, - a member of a church in Middlebury Vt. has been seen dancing dressed out in lace sleeves. how interesting for an old lady! This place is lovely, flourishing, and favourable for business - this State and whole region is doubtless one of the most favored spots of earth in respect to beauty of situation and material resources, yet the society is pervaded by a lawless spirit, impatient of sober restraint, craving excitement ~~and~~ a sort of unorganised amalgamation of people of various character. It will be some years before society here will take the stable character of the 'East,' yet it ~~better~~ here than in most places at the West I am told. Tell Eliab he ~~goes~~ owes me a letter and has not written me for most a year; - I want to hear from him: Isaac is a good boy to write however busy, he is punctual. Joseph has not written me lately

If Joseph's disease be a rupture of those nerves of the spinal column which constitute the nerves of motion, and if so ruptured that nature's efforts cannot repair the breach, then it seems to me there is no hope that he will regain the use of his limbs, but it must gradually affect all the nerves of voluntary motion and render him nearly helpless. O! what a terrible affliction my poor brother! how will he bear it? the grace of God only can enable him. 'Affliction springs not from the dust'— some wise purpose is to be answered: — Joseph when a child as I distinctly recollect was very mild, gentle and loving, and rather remarkable for a sweet and confiding disposition. In the later years of his manhood, I have sometimes sighed at the apparent change in him, (I mean only a lack of the social, communicative spirit of his boyhood) caused perhaps by buffetting the cold, calculating, selfish world, steeling the mind, repressing its finer sensibilities, or, as he expressed it "toughening the feelings". The stern force of circumstances modify character much; they form the tool of the great Architect to mould and frame us to fit us for his service! Had Providence ordered favoring circumstances, J. would undoubtedly have been rich: his business talents, cast and turn of mind, ready and stiff decision, bent of purpose, strict integrity, quick-seeing sagacity, all would lead to such result, but very possibly success would have been attended with a scorching influence on the mind and heart, making every green thing to become withered and sere. Dear Joseph, great was your danger, but your Heavenly Maker counts the spirit with which He has endowed you, too precious to be abandoned to the cold influences of worldly prosperity!

[illegible]

So you, my dear sister, had your childhood and youth been passed in the full tide of health and luxurious self~~in~~dulgence, would your spirit now be tender and loving, your disposition amiable and kind?

Again, had I at your age been settled with a companion I loved, in a situation to gratify my tastes, and my ambition: — I fully believe I should have been very cold-hearted and selfish, lived and cared only for myself — perhaps been haughty & imperious, — doubtless much more unlovely in character than now: It is true of me as the phrenologist said, that the social principle is the most strongly marked: next ambition, my feelings, very warm and earnest, naturally predominate over judgment; — in the pursuit of any desired object, it is perfectly natural for me to run headlong, reckless of consequences: The Allwise only knows what I should have become without His restraining Hand. "He has hedged up my way — has held me in with bit and bridle" —

It is very probable, nay certain to my mind, that Almeda will do more good, contribute more to the happiness of her friends, and consequently enjoy more herself, than if her fair prospects had not been blasted and her path made narrow and thorny. If the wisdom of the dealings of Providence can be plainly seen in reference to this world, how much more, in the preparation for a higher and nobler state of existence. So Joseph, and we all may have cause to bless the afflictive rod which at present seems so dark and trying. Perhaps too the unfolding of Providence may make my mission more plain: — my energies of mind and body and heart too, may find full employ in ministering to his comfort and happiness and how much rather to be chosen than "eating the bread of strangers"! A stranger, a mere boarder, has no right to expect, or want, sympathy or indulgence — if sick or lonely, or sad, or weary, what matter? who cares? — I do not complain — have no reason to: the experience of a stranger — a mere passenger or sojourner is not new to me.

Sister Ann —

I have had my same old velvet fixed over with blue satin folds on the edge and crown, lined with white. This is the third winter I am wearing my Thibet dress and cloak without any alteration just as good as new!

Racine Feb 9th 1850.

Brother Samuel

What do you think of the prospective annexation of Canada, is it likely to be any benefit to our already unwieldy country? Will not the advantages arising from having more northern and non-slave holding States be more than balanced by this addition of a mass of people ignorant, degraded, many of them Catholics, yet admitted to the full rights of citizenship?

Do you take the National Era or does Joseph? Are you a whig, Clayite or Barnburner?

What is your opinion respecting the late Hungarian struggle; of Kossuth, also of those brave ladies who are the lions of the day in New-York? What do you think of the present attitude and probable destiny of Turkey?

Have you seen Lynch's expedition to the Dead Sea? Do you not think it well worth reading, not only for the beauty of its style, its lively and copious descriptions of the many objects of interest on his route, the charming natural scenery of that region around the Mediterranean, with which are connected such interesting associations, sacred as well as historical, — the theatre

of events affecting the destiny of the whole human race to the end of time — but also for that which is its main object, viz. a knowledge of the facts in relation to that celebrated inland sea, so long enveloped in a mist of superstitious fabulous and contradictory statements?

This is a famous great little city. — everybody is as large as life. Two large papers are printed weekly, another semi-monthly and quite recently a fourth literary publication in the form of a Magazine has been issued, under the title of "Our Belle City", — in which it is gravely stated that the long searched for place — "the West", is discovered to be here, i.e. this is its centre, it being said to be down-hill from this place every way.

During last week two concerts were given for the entertainment of a crowded audience in which the performers were three of our school girls, three older ladies, assisted by a flute trio, for the benefit of a singing master from the East; — "a belle nonchalant" — tickets (25) presented to musicless folks.

Last evening it was very rainy, and

extremely dark, yet our enterprising community went to two donation parties, one at the Methodist, the other at the Universalist ministers, — also were patronised, a Phrenological Lecture, and a kind of theatrical performance by an English lady of Shakspearian readings, sonatas, songs, [illegible] anecdotes &c. — besides which I myself attended a 'sing', at the house of a worthy physician at a few doors distance.

Will you not embrace an early opportunity to respond to this interesting communication giving me your digest of the important and varied information it contains?

With much esteem [illegible]

J[illegible]

E A Rich Feb 10

FEB 10 Wis.

10

Mr. S. W. Furber

Bangor.

Me.

Ann April 18

Boston Apr 6th [illegible]

Dear Sister [illegible]

For three good long and [illegible] welcome letters I am truly obliged — the two last since my last was sent you: also a very interesting letter from brother Samuel which I must defer answering awhile, his knotty questions meantime lying on the table under consideration.

I should have written you a fortnight since, but I have been acting in a sort of drama — an episode in my monotonous life, — have waited for the closing scene so as to give you an account of it. About a month since, an application came to me through a lady here, to take the situation of a sort of private governess in Milwaukie. two children, a girl of six, a boy of three years, children of a widower of two years standing, — a lawyer of large practice: boarding with them in a genteel family, taking the sole charge of them day and night, superintending their wardrobe &c. purchasing and getting made but without any labor, — a sitting room and bedroom adjoining, which the family have nothing to do with except to put in order &c: he wishes to obtain a lady who shall devote herself to his children form right habits of speaking and acting — take in fact all the responsibility of a mother. Some things about it appeared inviting, as a [illegible] [illegible] — it is about time

teaching awhile now — I have had several inter-
views with the lady making inquiries to ascertain
respecting it to know whether I should like it — the man
sending word from time to time that he would come
to see me about it, but prevented from press of busi-
ness from coming until yesterday. I have managed
the business quite secretly; Mr. & Mrs. H. knew nothing
of it for some time until a note was brought me which
excited their curiosity; then she expressed great unwilling-
ness to have me leave, — though she wishes to get along with
but one assistant because Mr. H. is dismissed, and re-
ceiving no salary, — the other teacher is a fine Algebra
scholar — a graduate of South Hadley, — but Miss Rich is
liked among the scholars and people and is competent
in managing the school — she is going east with her
daughter and wishes the school to go on while she is
gone — therefore it is for her interest for Miss Rich to stay.

About the same time Miss Bright wrote me that she had
been sick, had no resource, wished I would try to find her
something to do, so after much thinking and perplexity, I
decided to stay wrote Miss B. to come if she wished the situation
Mrs. H. informed the other teacher that she should not want
her, which raised a storm among her friends because she
came with the expectation of staying longer; — this was
last Sat. Mrs. H. felt bad concluded to employ her some longer, would
rather feel relieved now if I should go, but even if I had not
written Miss B. I should not now take the situation. I
have seen the man, and think I shall be much happier

here. I shall make known my decision to him in a day or two — shall stay until fall, and then do as Providence shall seem to direct. I felt at first inclined to take the situation because it would probably be permanent, at least for a year or two — because it would furnish a change, and especially because the salary would undoubtedly be more than I receive at present. but the incessant care, no liberty even to take a walk would be very hard for me, besides the name and sound of the thing I do not altogether like, nor the character of the man, an Irishman quick-tempered irascible, — aristocratic, without religious principle though said to be very honorable and perfectly moral. He left me to name the compensation - said money was no object. I did not intend to take up so much of my sheet in narrating this - have made a long story of what I could tell you in a few moments. I wrote Isaac a month or six weeks since - probably he went to Milo before it arrived. I am glad to hear he is at Milo, wish Oh so much I could be there too at least awhile. I have received two letters lately from Mother one from Joseph & a good long one from Almeda! which I answered the next day. I have deferred writing to Mother for the same reason as to you: - within a short time have written to cousin Maria and to Aunt Esther - have found a man here who has transacted business with Uncle Joseph, and is acquainted with several Warwick families. Received a letter from E. Doe in which he mentions spending some hours with you; I wish [illegible] would call on him [illegible] I think she will feel slighted if he does not: I hope [illegible] will not [illegible] so far as [illegible] one you named.

Have Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Bennett ever called on you? If they have not shown you as much civility, to say nothing of politeness or old acquaintance, as to do it I would take no pains to know them.

I am writing just what comes into my head without order or arrangement. The weather last month & this, has been extremely dry, but cold and dreary: the lake winds piercing and uncomfortable, spring is [illegible] [illegible] season here I think. Business is not as brisk as usual: the California excitement has taken away money as well as men from this region, and operated unfavourably.

A part of the Presbyterian church adhere to Mr. Hopkins, have left the meeting and hired the Court House, where we now attend. I sing alto famously:- a subscription has commenced to built a church for the first Congregational Church; which is going rapidly forward. — There is a great division in feeling, bitterness, — One lady that I first became acquainted with and liked much, I now never see: she does not call here.

A letter from Elial reached me two or three weeks ago acknowledging receipt of draft I sent, I believe he has paid money for me to Mrs. Shepherd and perhaps more, he must see to that and do himself justice. I wish Mr. Fisher would come this way. it could not take much longer, or cost more to come on the Michigan railroad to Chicago up the lake to Sheboygan, where I suppose he lands: he would see much more of the West, and I should see him. If it were not such an expensive journey I would go to see Olive in vacation - first of July: if you and Samuel will come then I will go. I want very much to see the country west and mean to take a short journey at any rate. The region to the northwest of us is I suppose one of the finest in the world. There is a steady tide of immigration to all this region

Sat. Apr. 20th Received a letter from Isaac yesterday. I send a paper to Samuel: it is the meanest paper printed here but contains a little account of Rollins that perhaps will be interesting. Sister Ann.

Dear Sister

June 14th

Your long expected letter came two days since - your last previous one was dated 1st of March, three months ago. You half promised a while ago to write me once a month without reference to answers, - so when when Apr. came I pleased myself with the prospect of a letter, but I watched and waited in vain - three long months passed without bringing a letter from any of you; - my last was from Isaac received soon after yours. but which I have not answered because I did not know where he was - supposed he had probably left Milo. I am glad he is able to be there so long. I sent a letter to Mother and Joseph about two weeks since of which she does not make mention - perhaps it has not yet reached her.

I expect you have been a very naughty girl, worked too hard and not been 'kerful', just as you used to do sometimes: health is priceless in value, and I think it imperative duty to take care of it under all circumstances. All know or may know how much they can endure without injury, and should govern themselves accordingly. Oh if Joseph had realized what he was doing in those years of incessant exertion how gladly would he have made any sacrifice and retained sound bodily health. When my thoughts dwell on his sad condition, helpless, and I fear, hopeless, it seems as if I could not have it so. it seems as if I must fly there to see him and comfort him. I do want to see you all very - much, yet

could dress her daughter so well, and send for two years, as she intends to the best school in the land, that people could spend their money for what they pleased &c. - this was when Miss was complaining of the work how tired they all were & I asked why they did not have help.

If I could talk it I think probable I should tell over some little capers of Miss A. towards myself which would amuse and perhaps provoke you! but all these things are mere trifles; do not trouble me much nor would any if I was not so isolated as respects companionship —

I believe meanness above any thing else is my abhorrence.

The weather is delightful, all nature is gay; this will reach you before the 4th I hope, on that day I shall think much of home. Write soon and often if you love me,

Anna

I do not dare to allow myself to think about it, for I do not know what I shall think best to do. Mrs. Hopkins starts for Mass. with her daughter in about a month; I am teaching without her now and shall be alone after two weeks. She expects to return to commence the fall term middle of Sept. I am obliged to stay at any rate until the end of the term (last of Aug.) probably I can stay during the winter & another year if I wish, but I have some annoyances in the family - (not from Mr. or Mrs. H.) I feel very much isolated, - none to share with me my thoughts, feelings or sympathies: — Providence will direct & open my way and make it plain when the time comes.

The idea of taking the responsibility of a new school in a new set of circumstances is not pleasant to me in truth I am weary of teaching: I had been engaged you know, and that laboriously, three years steady, before coming here, - now two years more with but ten weeks interruption; longer than ever before without a rest of some months: Some weeks since I went to Chicago, 60 miles south by lake, Mr. H. went to attend convention so I went too, partly for the pleasure of the excursion, partly to ascertain about schools there. A young lady who came out with me is teaching a private school there: makes more than I do, does not teach French or Drawing. —

She thinks I could do well to open a school there; the place is fast increasing - is the centre of a great deal of business having communication by railroad and steamboats with Buffalo and Eastern cities and by canal Illinois,

Give much love to Eliza tell him I mean to write to him before long.

and Mississippi river with New Orleans: it is but 17 years since the first house was built in it and that as a military station. - It is now the greatest wheat-market in the world has a large trade in lumber from Michigan across the lake. I suppose that if Samuell and Elias with their business talents, & knowledge of the lumber trade, were to establish themselves there, or in any of these lake ports they might become princes in wealth in a few years perhaps but wealth is of small consequence in comparison with some other things. I don't know as I shall hardly forgive it in Mr. Furber that he did not go home this way: he might have gone as quick and without much if any more expense. and have had the pleasure of seeing all these flourishing lake towns. I think when I return I shall take the rail-road across the country rather than to go around the lakes. The weather has been cold and extremely dry all the spring: no rain fell for six weeks, every thing was parched; there was a hard frost the last of May: - the trees put out slowly with leaves sere and yellow; - in the last two weeks we have had showers, and warm weather, and vegetation has come on with a most rapid pace. We have radishes and lettuce, currants and strawberries are coming rapidly forward. The minority who follow Mr. H. are building a meeting house; - He preaches a morning service only at the Court House without any salary; a great deal of bitterness is felt against him on the part of some. He is imprudent in speaking, warm and impulsive in his feelings, fearless and independent in speaking, sometimes

we have strawberries every night for tea almost, from our neighbours garden. I am glad you have so good a garden with I could be there. plenty of black raspberries coming on.

Give my love to Elias tell him I mean to write to him before long.

Arvi[illegible] to Lucy [illegible]
June 14 1850

severe extravagant and sarcastic, thus has made enemies: He is talented, kindhearted, of an excellent spirit improving on acquaintance: I have more in the way of companionship and congeniality in him by far than any of the rest of the family

The week of the fourth is to be vacation, ~~then~~ after which I am to go on with the school till last of Aug. probably Mrs. H. will be willing to increase my wages some while alone, but no more in that way than she is obliged. — she is pretty close in her calculations, yet fits out her daughters very genteelly: her housekeeper and friend — the 'household governess', is still more so, — is like a great dark shadow ~~across~~ my path whenever I come in contact with her, — prides herself on her extreme neatness, and great particularity & good management, — is all the time sick and complaining, ~~has not been~~ able to walk to meeting since I have been here, yet able to do more work in one day ~~than~~ than many women in two: she is really in feeble health but has a faculty, — which to possess is the sum of all excellence in her estimation; I suppose I have failed in propitiating her good graces by minding my own business, not flattering her and especially not taking hold to help now and then — she tells every now and then what Miss Humphrey — my predecessor did, who is represented as perfection itself. They keep no girl to save expense, — hire washing done, — Miss A. has tried hard, to make me do mine, but I consider my wages low enough already, for the branches I teach, that they can afford to hire washing as well as dress and other gratifications for the children &c. of which there is no lack: told Mrs. H. the other day, that she had no right to call herself poor, as long as she

X Z Z X + X extra
X Racine Sept extra extra extra 15

Dear Sister Lucy

For two good, most interesting and most welcome letters I am much obliged. I was meditating an answer to yours of July 4th. when your last arrived.

I must not attempt an answer now to either in due form, for I have decided to return this fall, am hasting my arrangements to start as soon as possible - hope to converse with you face to face in the course of a few weeks. Circumstances in Providence have lately occurred to make my way plain, and I am very happy in the anticipation of seeing you all soon and in giving up teaching for a time at least.

Mrs. H. has all along talked of wishing me to stay, if I would consent to take charge of the juvenile department in connection with Classes in French Drawing &c. while she would procure a married lady who has been so engaged in the school, to come in for an hour a day to teach Algebra; but last week a teacher from a somewhat famous Institution at Pittsfield Ms. - came along offered her services professing to be competent to instruct in every branch; so Mrs. H. thought it would be more for her advantage, give the school greater celebrity &c. to employ her, and the lady is introduced at once into the family staying here with me during Mrs. H's absence. So it is decided without any trouble on my part.

Had Mrs. H. wished me to stay another year, I should

as much or more than I probably should have done there, I gained something in knowledge and experience, besides the gratification of seeing a very little of the West. [illegible] as long as [illegible] I shall lay [illegible]
Affy Sister Ann

perhaps have thought best to stay for the sake of "filthy lucre" alone, for it would have been sorely against my inclination, in fact I have been long enough in one family — under one set of influences, not particularly elevating, improving or agreeable — should prefer some other place if I were to stay longer to teach, but to obtain a good situation as teacher here is I should judge more difficult than at the east in consequence of the apathy generally pervading the mind upon the subject of education and from the fact that this region is thronged with persons coming 'out West' to teach who commence perhaps, become discouraged, and abandon the field to a successor following the same course; — therefore no confidence is felt in a stranger commencing an enterprise of the sort.

I should have more hope of success to try to get up a school in Boston, than to start one on my own responsibility at some new place here; — but enough about schools, I mean to give to the winds all care or thought about them at present. I wrote to Eliot — perhaps you have seen the letter; — to come 'out' to return with me or stay the winter if I did. If he is about leaving Brown's it might be much for his advantage, to take a peep at the West, he is at an age to derive more benefit, (i.e. gain more that will be of use to him) probably than at any other time, — knowledge of our country, its resources, business enterprises, communication with minds drawn from various quarters — a kind of knowledge and experience that might give an important complexion to his future course, in a business point of view.

But however delightful to me to have his company and protection on my "homeward bound voyage," I should not of course wish or expect him to come unless he wished to do so from the benefit, pleasure and profit accruing to himself sufficient to balance the expense.
I shall have no difficulty in returning safely, — shall very probably find opportunity to go with an acquaintance.
I hope to be able to start near the beginning of Oct, as favourable a month it is said to cross the lakes as any in the year. perhaps I shall go across the country. I keep school two weeks longer — have some preparations to make for the journey that will keep me very busy — have not "fixed" much since I have been here and you know how important it is to do it once in a while. I am thinking some of slipping down on the canal from Cleveland where all the boats touch to Zanesville to see cousin Jerusha Clark, on my way. the additional expense would be small, and I feel unwilling to pass by without seeing that companion and playmate of my childhood; that would give me some view too of the noble state of Ohio; — the only objection is, I should lose my company probably by that course; but if Eliab was with me it would be just the thing he would like. I received a letter from Isaac and Mother just before he left Milo, in which he directed me to address ~~him~~ at Goffstown, — I sent a letter to him, & the day after, received one from from him stating his P. O. address was New-Boston. shall write him again in a day or two. I expect a letter from Eliab every day. — Lizzie Doe owes me a letter and has not written me since

besides have nothing worth writing — —

Ann July

last March I am at a loss to know why she has been silent to me so long. I am out of conceit with Dr. Pomroy. Don't know as I shall call to see them at all, because he did not wait to see me at Chicago. Tell Lizzie Poe when you see her that I have been on the point of writing her for some time to ask how and by what means I have lost her favor, so as to be entirely forgotten by her this long time. Shall hope to complain to her in person ere long. I have been talking with Mr. H. about my journey; he tells me of a route I can take quite as direct, he thinks with little if any more expense,— From Zanesville to take the great national road to Pittsburgh ~~field~~, Ohio, thence by rail ~~ad~~ by way of Philadelphia, to New York and Boston — thus avoiding the stormy lake Erie — more to be dreaded than any other, and best of all, giving me a view — though a bird's eye one — of the beautiful scenery of Penn. — the cities of Phil. & New York; I should enjoy it very much with good company and protection but feel as if it would be some what hazardous to attempt it alone. Probably, however I could find some one at Zanesville going to Philadelphia. — Pleasant as this scheme is, it is doubtless a chimerical one, unless Eliab was here to go with me; I suppose the greatest objection he would have, would be the expense, yet he probably would feel it less now than ever again, & he means to see the West sometime, can spare it without inconvenience and soon replace it; it would not be like drawing upon his capital when in business. One thing however; if he should come and at a favorable season become acquainted with the business advantages this region affords I have little doubt he would wish to stay and I do not feel like having any of my friends live here. I am glad I came West, think my

"Will Samuel please excuse my not writing "to" him in answer to two or three short but most welcome favours from his pen? I am much pressed for time just now and

half two years experience will be useful to me

Friday th
Boston, Oct 25 1850

Dear Sister

I arrived here Wednes. Morn before breakfast — at Mr. Chase's — well, but somewhat fatigued, — had a fine time on my journey expect I shall talk you all out when I get there. I shall have so much to tell, there is no pleasure in writing any thing when I expect so soon to see you face to face. Yesterday and day before I took to get rested, — study:— to day, have called ~~&~~ dined at Mr. C. Metcalf's, and engaged to spend tomorrow and Sabbath at Dr. Pomroy's: I have not called at Mrs. Child's think I shall not; — but perhaps shall on Mrs. Ball. I intend to start next Tues. P. M. in the cars the boat leaves Portland in the evening reaches Bangor the next Morning so if nothing happens to prevent I shall see Bangor next Wednes. morning. Your cord I will endeavour to find on my way down Washington Street tomorrow.

I wrote to Isaac that I should be in Boston this next Sabbath and asked him to come here and see me, — I suppose it costs him nothing to go on the railroad if he can spare the time possibly, I think he will, I want very much to see him, don't know when I shall unless he can come and spend the Sabbath there.

In haste — Sister Anne —

I have really forgotten whether I answered your last dated Sept 1st before I left Racine: I wrote to Mother and Isaac and Mrs. Chase just before leaving, — believe I deferred answering yours till I should arrive here, and now I am too impatient to see you, to be willing to answer it by writing

Ans Oct 25

Mrs. S. W. Frazier
Bangor Me.

Ans. Feb. 12

Westfield Feb. 12th '57

Dear sister Lucy

My heart was made light the other eve by a most welcome letter from you and Eliak. It reached me Mond. just a week after it was . I had hardly dared hope for one until you had received mine. - it was very good in you, and did me good, I feel that when you are all there, enjoying so much together and I far away, I need to hear from you often —

A kind letter from Lizzie Doe came at the same time, - she was truly kind left nothing undone that she could do to serve me, Whatever her faults may be she is certainly a kind, sincere, and self sacrificing friend, - I hope you will write her soon if you have not - She says she does want to leave there - hopes "Heaven will forgive her restlessness of spirit," wishes me to make inquiry for a place for her here - she raised a gill of blood a few mornings since; a rupture of a blood vessel occasioned, she thinks, by a terrific dream. At Boston in the evening at Park Street, I suddenly encountered Mary Quincy Fetherell she was just as glad to see me as she used to be at Bangor wanted dreadfully to talk with two or three hours confidentially about her troubles, for as a minister's wife she has had some.

I wrote a note to Mrs. Pomroy - dropped in P. O.
Mary is engaged to Mr. White. Mr. Chase's fam-
ily intend to move to Royalston early in the spring.

I suppose my letter has reached you by this time so you can form a pretty good idea how I am situated, the school is at least as easy and pleasant as I could expect; no school - especially of young ladies - can be free from care, labor, anxieties, none can be very easy in its management. but in the condition of the school, the character of the village and my situation in general, I have reason to think myself favored. The people here seem sincere and reliable, I judge from various things.

Mr. Pilsbury has been here six years, - my prede-cessor three years - Mr. Hopkins was here seven years, longer than in any other one place.

Mr. Tinker is one of the best of men and an ex-cellent preacher, has an interesting family, three, in the academy. the church on the sabbath is filled - prayer meetings well attended: the village con-tains about 2500 inhabitants, three churches well filled, - it is a church going people, consequent-ly a good tone of feeling prevails. I have received calls from most of the young ladies of the place, several married ladies, and from five of the first young gentlemen of the village, spent last Sat. in returning calls, the only day since I

have been here that there has been snow enough to make good sleighing - it had fallen the day before — people were improving it right merrily - during the night of Sat. a Thaw and rain came on, Sunday, the streets were almost impassable on foot for the water and ice. Mond. it was nothing but deep mud; - a pretty fair specimen of this climate in the winter. I have been carried to and from school a good many days, stay at noon always both on account of the distance and short intermission - 1 hour. I feel quite domesticated at my boarding place have meat every morning for breakfast, sometimes for supper, room with Mariette the daughter, it is a large square chamber with three closets - one for my use — two beds, two dressing tables some hanging book shelves, a bureau a handsome home made yarn carpet, plenty of water et cetera and last, not least, a drum and funnel heated from the room below so that I can be alone whenever I choose. I have already read more than in three months at Racine, have finished (nearly) Hannah More which is very good have commenced Gilfillan, have read five characters or rather heard read, for the "young man" has read it loud to us evenings: - he left in the stage last eve, for the West to be gone two months on business, carried 2000 dolls. to buy hides, will probably visit Racine, -

The style of the family is plain and substantial rather than genteel not much citified though eminently decent and comfortable; The daughter has quite a taste for having things about right, -pretty ambitious, she has just been netting a handsome tidy, is about to make a large lamp mat, like your little Cologne Stand, and she has just got framed one of the most elegant drawings in pencil I ever saw. she dresses genteelly and is a handsome girl of 21 years.

Tell my dear Mother that a letter from her is at all times most acceptable I heard her say that she had got her hand in, while writing for dear Joseph, so that it was easier than formerly: how glad I should be if she would regularly write something once a week and send the letter soon as she gets it filled.

I want to hear particularly from the little Josy and from Charley - also from the other children to whom give much love, tell Lucy A Searles to write to me, and James too.-

Much love to all. I suppose Eliab has returned to Bangor, - if not tell him I shall take an opportunity to answer his letter before long, also I am expecting a letter from Isaac every day. My watch goes admirably, - through Lizzie's means I got a nice little chain, by weight highly orna-... tal in Bangor for 2 dolls.

Ann - Mar. 13th

[illegible] March 1[illegible]th [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Now as to yourself I was aware that you had more upon [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] from the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] yourself. —

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] a [illegible] [illegible]

How happy we were those few weeks at [illegible], working, reading, planning and talking, [illegible] to the [illegible]. I do not think it at all strange that you are [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] all his strength [illegible]!

[illegible] particularly [illegible] that the [illegible] [illegible] be a good [illegible] [illegible] I am to be in a hurry to go back to [illegible]. If you do not get better [illegible] [illegible] better than teaching. I find that [illegible] and experience have changed my [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

Two days of my week [illegible] ... a

we [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] ... if [illegible]

[illegible] ... [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] out been [illegible] to my [illegible] the [illegible]

is very fond of [illegible]

or rather [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

pretty well [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

custom not to [illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible]

pleasant [illegible] I fear [illegible] ar-

gument [illegible] that the school is rather [illegible]

to [illegible]: [illegible] now to

think themselves men and women [illegible]

they can speak. I visited yesterday at Mr. [illegible]

met some of the [illegible] of the school - the [illegible]

the village, Gov. Patterson and lady &c. I like the people

well so far. Friday. Have just returned from a visit to [illegible].

[illegible] a cosy time with the mother and sister of the late teacher. — Mr. C. graduated a little before [illegible] knew him well as well as his first wife. Mrs. C. said she met him at Niagara Falls about 14 years [illegible] she knew him when he was a [illegible] boy [illegible] 19. she is quite enthusiastic in his praise. She also was quite acquainted with Mr. Perkins of Royalston.

She read me a letter from her daughter, the first [illegible] from her on her journey, except a day or two after she started. she left before I came, had not reached her destination 150 miles west of Mississippi river in Ar. was 14 days sailing up Arkansas river obstructed by sand bars and snags: every night stopping and tying the boat to a stump when the lamp was lighted, which consists of a large open work iron pot with a long handle in which is put some blazing pine knots and the region is illumined all around.

This family appear very friendly to me as respects the school, — are said to be real good hearted. he is colporteur for the county:- a very dull preacher though possessing talent. prayer meetings are held almost every evening: in an adjoining town there have been recently from 40 to 50 conversions. —

The weather has been extremely [illegible] since I came, in consequence have had slight colds enough to make me feel [illegible] most all the time. to day it seems more like settled weather. I suppose you are having snow-storms and good sleighing in abundance

Ann - Apr. 25

Westfield Apr. 23rd

Your letter of 3 Inst. came duly to hand and [illegible] I am much obliged though it was not half long enough. I received one from Isaac [illegible] dated Cuba [illegible] a hundred miles [illegible] would be able to see him; Marietta [illegible] she should conclude her brother cared little [illegible] so near without visiting her. but I told her I was sure he would come if he could [illegible] I have been secretly flattering myself that he would [illegible] this way [illegible] perhaps find a place to suit him in this section,

I should think Jane would be right glad to leave all them [illegible] and emerge again into the light of civilized life and its comforts too; but I do not like the idea of your keeping house while at Lodi, unless Mother can be with you; if it were not for the opportunity of gaining a few dollars, how glad I should be to stay with you so retired and quiet: but it seems to be my lot to delve and toil among strangers and eat ~~thy~~ bread of those whose chief interest in my welfare arises from the board money I pay them: however, every pains the nature of the case admits is taken to please me and I am quite at my ease and liberty. I do not find every thing just as I would like but probably as near to it as I could expect. —

School is pleasanter than last term, in two weeks shall have kept two half terms of seven weeks each; I have a large class in [illegible] some of the oldest and most advanced scholars, — a class in Kames' Elements of Criticism, which I have to learn [illegible]

every evening preparatory to recitation — a grand study — also a class, including some smart young men in Intellectual Philosophy, Abercrombie):— Last term an important miss of fourteen was impudent, I talked plain, she took a dislike, influenced some of her class so they talked before me at noon, that they were not coming, they guessed there would not be much of a school next term &c. The last day of the term I took occasion to talk a little, told them I would not say I wished any of them would stay away if they would come to learn, to try to please the teacher, obey the rules, &c. but unless they did the school would stand much higher without them, that they were far in the back ground compared to Eastern schools, the fault of a few, and of course such were an injury to the school — made some of them look a little sober I thought. When the term commenced I had 37; some from a distance, smart scholars and the three studies mentioned are higher than any in last term except Latin: Hames never studied here before, — so though somewhat troubled, Providence was better to me than my fears but how I shall prosper next half term I do n't know: — expect [illegible] little girls from the juvenile department which I dread. I shall have six weeks vacation last of June; tui[illegible]/ board &c will cost about eleven dolls. so it will be as cheap travelling as staying here, [illegible] I best visit cousin Jerusha at Zanesville or Uncle Humphrey whom Isaac has just visited — I should like much to see him and his family. but if I only had plenty of money how I would speed right away home to enjoy the precious time with you all. but it would take nearly all my small gains.

The season appears to me very forward, peach[illegible] in[illegible]

[illegible] Nov. 26th [illegible] could sit with [illegible] this homes pleasant morning; I [illegible] by the chimney [illegible]

your ever loving [illegible] must consider [illegible] it is to me to receive letters from you [illegible] love to Samuel — write [illegible] would write [illegible] when you see [illegible] Mrs. Pelouze? [illegible] Remember me to the Bradley's

in full blossom, and truly beautiful they look; many trees almost out, as plentious (?) heard, the variety of flowers my almonds ^in the front yard look gay already in their neat beds, the green grass glistened this morning with dropped dew; jonquils, hyacinths and other early ^ones are in bloom in the gardens, the frogs sing lustily all night and the birds sing so sweetly; the woods are full of wild flowers and though I probably shall not probably go maying next time. I have the promise of a ride up the 'gulf' and into the woods the next Sat. the 4th. I am going to write E. [illegible] very soon fear much that she will pass by me, unless the Furbers would stop at Buffalo, take a boat to this port, then go on to Erie to take boat which would be some expense as well as trouble: if she would only think so she would get along perfectly well alone, I would meet her at Buffalo, if she would wait till June a pleasanter time. — then if I visit Jerusha I should go on with her to Cleveland, from which place she could take boat for Chicago without change. I must have some kind of a mantilla, and wish I could have one ~~visite~~ ready cut in style, sent on with the Furbers, and I want a handsome one, believe I shall send some money to E. and request her to purchase one for me. — don't know whether or not she is in Portland she told me to direct there next. Tell Mehitable that she and E. if she goes with them must contrive to come and see me, and if she does not, she and John can come, take a boat at Erie and join the rest at Chicago. I have been reading 'Views afoot' by J. Bayard Taylor, — quite racy: I presume it is in the B. library, also Chalmers Theology in which there is improvement to the mind

When shall I visit Niagara? — I ~~don't~~ know when will you? I have heard of a lady near here, in just your

Sept. 11 ... 26th Thurs. March ... could not [illegible] ... this pleasant morning. I [illegible]
[illegible]

case who is well in consequence of water cure treatment she went to an establishment for several weeks: had you not better try that treatment, & Mother I suppose could act the physician pretty well, from her experience in dear Joseph's case: in reading Wayland I have found notes in his handwriting. I have washed your Herbarium in the fluid and have a large bottle of it left. Botany is not studied much here of which I am glad. Eleven were admitted to the church here a fortnight since at communion: there are meetings every evening:—in the next town there is quite a revival. I received a long letter from Mr. & Mrs. Hopkins their teacher Miss Smith has left them, and they have ~~[illegible]~~ considerable trouble with her—they wrote in rather low spirits: she without doubt has treated them ill.

I am writing in the chamber, while Mariette and Martha Hall who was at Mr. Hopkins' the first year I was ~~there~~ sit by the table talking, with all their might, as well as sewing;—putting to flight my ideas: Mrs. Rumsey the mother starts next week for Troy and Vermont, leaving Mariette to keep house! How are Mother's health and spirits? How does Almeda prosper: why does she not write and say so? What does Samuel contemplate if he does not take the mill and why does he not? Is Eliza pretty well? is it probable she will journey any for health and pleasure if so will she not come this way in my vacation? Why did not Isaac [illegible] a chance of the railroad there, as he expected? I have made my [illegible] into a light morning dress because I thought it not good enough to make a silk double dress.—I shall get some thing ~~[illegible]~~ when [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] suitable [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]: have washed [illegible] [illegible] & made new flowing sleeves to my pretty Delaine. Good bye, dear

Ann. June 10 M/M

Westfield June 10th/51

Dear Sister Lucy

Isaac left yester eve in the stage for Erie, thence to take boat for Cleveland. He staid with me three days much to my comfort arriving Frid eve; so I had all day Sat. as well as Sunday to see him: he was made very welcome by the family + the horse and buggy offered for a ride about town, so we had the pleasure of a circuit of six or seven miles. It was too windy for the boat, to come in Mond. morn. so he waited till the evening stage. — he intends to go on to Chicago and seek a situation on the new road + in projected in Illinois, unless he finds a chance to suit him about Cleveland, — he feels himself so safe on the point of health, that I fear he will not take precautions and so catch fever and ague. He might have stopped at Albany this summer, had he been a day or two earlier there. I imagine he feels a little disheartened: he seemed not exactly sad, but silent, not so much animation and buoyancy as usual; perhaps, because among strangers. — he is not communicative enough of his feelings: he has an excess of that shrinking sensitiveness of which we all have a double portion. Is it not strange that he is so reserved to his own folks on the subject of his own particular matters, that is, if the affair is settled to his satisfaction.

What do you think about it?

Your letter reached me about a fortnight since.

Please write soon. Dear Lillie and Samuel too. I want to know more particulars about his business as well as other things.

after Lizzie had been here a day or two. She staid two weeks enjoying herself finely, making herself as agreeable to every one to the utmost of her powers which you know are not "contemptible": she intended staying but three days at first, but Mrs. Ramsey, the mother started on her journey to Vermont, the day after she arrived; Mariette was lonely wanted her company, urged her to stay: she made herself very familiar, helped some, took quite an interest in all the family: read loud some, was quite gay, walked, rode, and visited once: Mariette invited company one afternoon. Sat when there was no school we all rode four or five miles up the creek, to a place called 'Camel's back'; a wild romantic spot, exceeding very far, in beauty and grandeur, any thing in nature I had before seen: the creek is formed into a sort of oblong circular basin, in width thirty or forty rods, steep banks, on the side we approach, a narrow irregular ridge like the humps of the camel extends almost across, leaving just a narrow passage for the stream on the opposite side, where a perpendicular ledge rises, 250 feet! in some part bare, in some, clothed with vegetation. the bank on which we stood, must be more than 100 feet above the stream for, the tops of large forest trees were 40 or 50 feet below down in the deep basin. I was well nigh entranced with the view, and would gladly have gazed upon it half a day: woods all around, every variety of tint and foliage: there is another similar

spot, ten miles further up the creek near the residence of one of the young ladies in school, who has invited me to go home with her next week Friday, visit it, stay over Sunday, and return Mond. morn. I antici-pate great pleasure in the excursion. I shall be obliged to go ~~through the tedium and mummery~~ of, a pub-lic examination in just three weeks from to day then five weeks vacation, to which I am looking forward with some pleasure. School continues pleasant not very fatiguing: we have not had any warm weather yet; - a great deal of rain the last two weeks. I like the dress Lizzie brought me very much have made my mantelle after that pattern with a little alteration about the arms: there was lace enough to go round, and a second row from the arms: very pretty and really elegant. My dress I shall not have made until fall. I have a new thin straw bonnet cap crown purchased at Buffalo price 2,00 lined and trimmed it myself with light green press crape which you saw that I had last summer; so the 'preceptress' looks quite respectable. — Lizzie flourished in her velvet jacket.

For that beautiful flannel I very much thank you my loving and inveterately industrious sister, don't know as I shall dare wear it. Festus is a dear little book - though wick-ed enough, it contains many gems of thought. I am much obliged for it. While Isaac was here I bought 'Bards of the Bible', by Gilfillan: - a reprint of an Eng-lish works, costing only 50 or, 62½: wish you would

get it: you would enjoy it much, and might be reading it at the same time I am, which would be a pleasant thought would it not:

I wish you were as well and hearty as I am, able to walk about, enjoy yourself going here and there; but I doubt not you are as happy: I sometimes sigh for a quiet retreat, where I could be free from care and responsibility – from being a sort of public character, watched in every word and action, and especially I long to be among those that care for me, though I have every evidence here that I am regarded with truly friendly feelings and every thing is done to make me happy.

They want me to continue to board here very much, and they have been so kind in receiving my friends and other things, that I hate to leave, though I am pretty confident it would be better for me in some respects to board elsewhere –

I am very glad your house is so pleasant, & hope you have a good girl; Has Mrs. Plummer called on you; Lizzie says she mentioned you to her also that Mrs. Webster would be glad to be on intimate terms.

Sarah Harlow would I presume take little interest in your acquaintance, nor do I think it would be a great loss to you. How I wish I could fly home to you this vacation, and I would were it not for the necessity of laying by a little fitting[?] leave for time of need. With much love to you-

self and Sam'l Sister Anna

Excuse this shabby letter; I promised L. to write immediately so scribbled down after school in the midst of confusion and company

to Lucy (?)

Ann [illegible]
[illegible] 24th

This letter from [illegible] & [illegible] reached me very [illegible] yesterday -- I have not time to write as I intended to send with it but have not, so I will send it with just a word to say that I am well & suffering I believe just the pain of [illegible] longing [illegible] in my [illegible] Eliab, [illegible] has received letters -- [illegible] they will come along [illegible] thinking [illegible] has begun to get them. Lucy, I am greatly rejoiced that you are having Dr. Bush (?) rather than Dr. Holmes (?) -- I have much more confidence in his experience, ability, judgment and more than all his freedom from selfish inducements -- to which you know there is great temptation with his circumstances and family. This is privately said of course and merely my impression it may be unjust.

If you and Mother do really think of [illegible] once in a while I want you should write often. I will endeavor to write oftener than I have done but I cannot always command the time without taking it from my rest which for a [illegible] it is probably folly;

Enjoyed Eliab's visit very much -- wish I could have gone with him to the Falls, next summer you and [illegible] must come just-

[Left margin:] [illegible] to [illegible] I have about twenty unread (?) compositions to correct.

the night-time and I will go back with you
Have you made any trial of water cure treatment in your case?

[illegible]

The class of teachers in the Normal department this term are mostly raw country girls — real 'Yankees' — say 'daown' 'naow' &c. know nothing of Grammar by theory or practice and never wrote composition in their lives. it is my delectable task to make their crude productions, poetic effusions and all, fit to be read in the public hall before visitors. ---

Westfield Feb. 2^d /51.

Dear Sister Lucy. It is Saturday evening. I am sitting by our new stove, with a good fire blazing in it with the comfortable consciousness that my labors for another week are done that I can have a little time of uninterrupted quiet to think of home and dear friends, and a little leisure, so seldom enjoyed — to commune in spirit with loved ones far away. —

The rain patters on the windows, the wind comes in fitful gusts making me feel all the more sheltered and secure from unwelcome intrusion. I feel especially 'out with' all the world to night and like saying with Emerson, "Goodbye proud world; I am going home." I came from school uncommonly wearied, jaded, and half convinced that it is time for me to give up teaching, retire in coveted obscurity, and settle down in quiet the rest of my days in the shades of 'private life'.

My labours in school are arduous now, 66 young ladies in school this term — about two evenings each week are taken up in correcting compositions which, some of them, — require more labor and ingenuity to bring into agreement with the rules of grammar and style, than to write as many on the same subjects. It is now near the end of the term too, the dreaded examination is just ahead — my energies are taxed all day in school, while little is the leisure I can secure out of it — one eve is prayer meeting, another singing in a glee class connected with the Academy, and calls and visits usually steal away the rest.

I am particularly tired this eve as you doubtless perceive from the tone of my letter it is because I was at a party last evening or rather night, for it was past twelve when

refreshments were through — I was rather urged into going from the fact that it was expected of me — don't know but I may be induced to go again, but do not think I shall; however it may be for others it seems both silly and wicked for me to go to these fashionable gatherings of formality and vain display — to stand three hours when weary, talk when there is nothing to say, lose a night's rest, and feel jaded and miserable next day, just for the sake of reminding people that I am in existence, and claim a place in 'society' among the rest of the poor foolish, ephemeral beings of fleeting mortality! I believe I do not enjoy so called 'society' in any form very much, nor ever did; — had rather spend the time reading, or even alone 'meditating'; perhaps I ought to mix with my fellow beings more, in a general way, and interest myself in others more than I do — this desire of seclusion or perhaps exclusion may be one form of selfishness, I do believe it is not conducive to the health either of mind or heart — to live to a great degree within ~~the~~ one's own little circle.

This morning just after breakfast Miss Woodbury went to the Post Office and brought me two good long letters one from Isaac as well as yours and Eliab's: how glad I was! I hardly dared expect one from you for I have not written since your last before was received; ~~many~~ many thanks for it — to Eliab I shall make my acknowledgements very soon. I am truly glad to hear of your improved health, hope you will be contented to use your powers of locomotion sufficiently sparingly — that you will be really

[illegible] Have you seen Mrs. Pleasance yet; what neighbours have you? Have you seen Mrs. Hoskins as good [illegible] or any body else that I know? I hope Eliab will look well before he leaps; [illegible] your joy of your widower boarder. — I want very much to hear particulars [illegible]

[illegible]

careful, and thankful too, as I doubt not you are: I feared your unfortunate excursion had put you back instead of being a benefit.

I think your plan of doing without a girl next winter a a pleasant one certainly, and a good one, if Mother will do just what her strength will allow, but we know that she is prone to go beyond it. I wish I could be there too, how we would all enjoy it: ~~and~~ to be at Milo too all together -- our time together there last winter so much anticipated was short indeed, yet a time not to be forgotten. I am glad Samuel is going to have a house of his own it will enable you to feel so much more independent and save so much inconvenience in moving. but don't be in hurry about it, have a good one. I should think much of have a house not only convenient for work, but well done, completed before living in it, and pretty handsome too, for there is not a little happiness in having one's ideas of symmetry, beauty and good taste gratified and worth taking a little pains for, since it is about as easy for the smart and enterprising to reach a high standard as a low one - that really nice house at Hampden is spoiled by being cut up into little rooms.

If you promise to make me a chamber in the wall, to come home to, when I am 'aweary', I will engage to furnish it. -- have already got a little white pitcher, some book shelves, and a pretty little glass fluid lamp! Your communicative companion of the boat, Miss Fiske is known to Miss Woodbury, my chum, who is well acquainted with her friends say she has the reputation of being deranged. though not so much as to be raving at all or very wild: [illegible]

[Cross-written in top margin:] ... next summer [illegible] year. I think of sending for a letter of Aunt Emma['s] time from the first, for I [illegible] I should return here before long. I should prefer being [illegible] the other [illegible] I think. [illegible] of course I have not been at meeting for a long time. I have felt a little worried for [illegible] hope he may have wisdom given him at this important time in his life. — [illegible] you will write me once in two weeks I will answer as often if I can every particular [illegible] How is [illegible] and where is [illegible] Are the children [illegible] anything [illegible] summer.

[Cross-written in left margin:] [illegible] just received a letter from Lizzie Day; she has been spending the weeks at Samuel [illegible] and they have [illegible] to stay and take a little private [illegible] next summer [illegible]

[Cross-written in right margin:] I have just received 3 copies of paper [illegible] at [illegible]

Ann Oct. 1851.

of whom she gave you an account, Miss W. saw with her once in travelling in the cars Miss Fiske called him her brother and he appeared rather slenderly endowed by nature in sense. One cannot travel much without being struck with the strange anomalous beings to be met with in the world.

I do not recollect your old scanty cloak, was it dark blue? — a white drawn silk bonnet is all I intend to have new this winter yet I shall not be able to lay by much; my handsome black silk and journey last summer makes a difference in my savings — my board now costs $2.25 per week including fuel lights and washing. I have just purchased Webster's dictionary, an octavo edition with synonymes, yet containing all the words of the unabridged, the authorities given in that, are omitted which puts it in smaller compass. it costs but $2.62½. I purchased too at Janesville a beautiful edition of Pollok for $1,00 the size of your Scott's poems, also recently 'Noble deeds of American Woman' by Mrs. Sigourney; have you seen it?

I should think your 'lot' very cheap — as to the locality I have the idea that it is not a very pleasant neighbourhood but perhaps it has improved it being far from meeting is the only thing to regret about distance. Lizzie Doe is I suppose on her way home to Portland; she has not enjoyed her visit very much. I was very much shocked to hear of Mrs. Farber's death: how little she thought when anticipating so much in going there that it would so soon be her grave; poor Mehitabel it will be hard for her, and very afflictive it must be to all of them, Samuel must feel it much, the more that she was so far away; how death is realized when it enters the family circle and snatches away a well beloved ~~one~~, especially it must be hard to feel that [illegible] mother [illegible] ever vacant on earth, Sister Anna

Arena 1 ... [illegible]

Westfield Dec. 3d/51

I intended to answer your letter at once my dear Sister so as to obtain another from you the sooner — thought certainly I should do so, when vacation relieved me for a few days from incessant labour as well as care, but taking a notion to write to the folks [illegible] general at Milo as a sort of thanksgiving call besides a letter long due to cousin Lucy Williams, the time somehow all slipped away I find myself in the full tide of school business again but not quite so burdened with duties pressing close upon each other as last term. I will find time to answer your letters with a good degree of promptness and I hope you will find it in your heart (as I know you will) and also be able in respect to health, convenience, to write me _often_.

Your plan I like well, can think of but one improvement, the bedroom below is I suppose to be your 'boudoir': would it not be convenient to have it entered by more than one door. (i.e.) either from the kitchen or front hall? The new term has commenced prosperously: forty five young ladies and as many young young men. You have I suppose received a 'Westfield Transcript' containing a 'puff' for the school: I have this term eight beginners in "French" (which is getting quite fashionable here though scarcely known before I came) besides an advanced class of six or seven, (including a young lady from the famous Pittsfield school, reading Telemaque.

The Principal though a much more thorough scholar is not a good head of an Institution, lacks common sense, has neither gentleness nor firmness, & have fears for the permanence of the present prosperity of the school.

The assistant is a fine teacher and man, not twenty two but combining much ~~more~~ of dignity firmness true gentleness and manliness - a splendid specimen of a man. I wrote to mother quite a description of our examination of two days and evening, with the room ornamented with evergreens illuminated with church lamps, filled with a great crowd, I decorated with my new black silk, and about half a dozen other ladies and as many gentlemen being seated conspicuously near the stage sung with good effect occasionally, from the Alpine Glee Singer (have you seen it), 'The Merry Sunshine,' 'Sigh gentle gales' 'The Dream' 'Alpine Singer's song', 'Erin is my home', &c &c &c. The pieces in that book are nearly all secular of rather a gay light character the music excellent - fine harmony - I sing ~~treble~~ Soprano.

We (i.e.) Miss Woodbury and myself quite keep house by ourselves, purchasing candles and wood for ourselves, having little intercourse with the family except at meals, we receive calls in our room and it is even the appointed place of rendezvous for all the 'corps' of teachers of this great academy once a week, to consult advise concerning the administration of affairs. Mr. Johnson is a feeble looking man of an uncertain air and gait yet coveting all responsibility, standing however I believe in a little awe of me. Miss W.

is a very independent person regardful of her own dignity and rights, scrupulous in rendering to others theirs, of a humorous cheerful turn, fond of stories and of poetry but will generally read good solid reading in accordance with my wishes for she professes to do just as I say; she visited a friend fifteen miles from this, brought back Wordsworth's poetical works and Christopher North's recreations, two delightful books; the Excursion of Wordsworth I have read with more deep delight than any other poetry I ever read, I want you should read it.

The Recreations are quite racy, sometimes deeply touching very entertaining and instructive as must be every thing from the richly stored mind of Prof. Wilson. - I have finished Bards of the Bible pronounce it good have seen the worthless criticism upon in the Tribune. I have read nothing lately of fiction except what is contained in Harpers which I have read since last March: am greatly interested in Bulwer's Varieties of English life in it; think it one of the finest works of fiction: it will I suppose sometime be published entire. I have the promise of a new and valuable book to read, Religion of Geology, by Hitchcock.

I am glad to hear that Mary Tower is in Bangor, hope you will see her often. When any that call on you, remember me to them with such degree of regard as you think proper.

I should like to see Sarah Stacey: she was a pleasant scholar. indignation boils within me when I think of what I endured from J. W. and other girls, I should do very differently now I judge in several respects. I wish you would write more

exactly the state of your health: do you make use of cold-water as remedy? Do you suffer much pain? Do you use at all Ahmeda's liniment? Do the doctors call it a chronic nervous or merely local difficulty? Have you a pleasant, neat, smart girl? Have you any house plants this season? Have you sleighing yet? Our winter has commenced consisting of a change of weather once in a day or two, abundance of mud, drizzling rain, winds shifting to every point of compass with a show of snow for a day or two at a time. The steady winters of Maine are much to be preferred with their drifts, severe cold, yet clear, steady weather. Your sending for the Mothers' Magazine in the way you did was a nice plan: upon what subject was your piece? I am truly sorry to hear of the afflictions of [illegible] Fathers, should like to hear more particularly from them: it is not a vain saying that afflictions are often blessings in disguise.

A letter from Lizzie Doe, informs me that her youngest brother Frank a wild young man has recently been taken deranged is now at Chicago in the Insane Hospital.

How is it that the central church has increased so little? Is the minister of the first church very popular? Had I best remove my relation to this church? Ask E. whether it must be done by a formal letter from myself or through him or Samuel? I think Mr. Tinker little if any behind Prof. Shepard as a preacher. Oh what a sermon he gave us on Thanksgiving day. I have just received 80 worth of shoes at a saving of from 25 to 37 on each pair. I shall be glad of the stockings, - cannot obtain any yarn for knitting except coarse and [illegible]. I enclose fifteen dollars for E. to take care of. Like to lay by more next term.

Sister Anna

I should be very happy to receive a line from Samuel: love to [illegible], to Eliab; why does he not write to me.

Elyria
Aug 31 1853

Dear Sister Lucy   Elyria Aug. 31st / 53.

I find myself at this [illegible] my stop on my journey safe, well & quite refreshed this morning, from the effects of night travel & fatigue, — arrived at this delightful spot yesterday noon in company with Emily [illegible] — having had throughout a most comfortable & pleasant journey: [illegible] visit at [illegible] though to be seen very short only from Sat. noon till [illegible] night, for we took the cars at eleven P.M. so as to reach here in the day time. Every body was glad to see me. Mr [illegible]'s family are full of trouble. — all his property is under the [illegible] & he is gone to seek his [illegible]hood in a new place & the peculiar [illegible] is that it is through his foolish trust in a [illegible] who had before proved himself a villain: he professed a reform, induced him to go into partnership with him & trust him with all the business & has now swindled him out of all his property while people all blame Mr [illegible] for [illegible] with him at all & call the villain a keen fellow. [illegible] property was in part secured; he sends [illegible] to Willoughby to complete his education [illegible]

to teach & also for the present provides for the family. She has a son nine months old & such a poor long-armed thing I never saw - not an atom more than half as large as Percy. When it was five weeks old its grandmother (her mother) made a little coat & pair of pants & put them on the child spending nearly a week in making them! I think the poor little thing must have looked droll. We are most delightfully situated here, every thing promises me a fine visit. Mr. Hopkins lives in a fine old spacious & truly elegant mansion belonging to Judge Ely's family the founder of this place, (hence the name Elyria): Every thing about the house & grounds is stately almost magnificent - a grapery covering half an acre, - abundance of fruits large pear trees loaded, many peach trees with their heavy-laden limbs bent to the ground with the richest fruit just beginning to ripen; - three or four immensely large venerable weeping willows in different parts of the grounds: it seems quite a paradise. The house was unoccupied, Mr Hopkins could not readily find one therefore this was provided: the family make every thing most pleasant. Emily is going to stay three or four weeks & so am I if possible. Elyria is on the route west 24 miles from Cleveland & 8 only from the lake. Oberlin adjoins on one side so as Mr. Hopkins tell

~~we~~ are only seven miles from perfection! it appears to be a flourishing village & of considerable size. I wrote to Chicago Mond. morn from Westfield & shall expect a letter in a week or two which will determine my further movements. Tell Maria that Miss Harriet Day is here from Hartford: she is visiting her uncle Judge Ely's family. I saw her in Hartford ~~when~~ at the time I first went west.

We had a splendid time on the boat had the bridal state room which accommodated Mother Maria & myself. Eliot was very kind got my ticket & checks & made every thing easy for me. I do feel almost oppressed with the much kindness & love bestowed upon me by you all. Samuel has been a kind brother to me. I shall not forget it. I do not know how to direct a letter to Mother so as to be sure she will receive it—wish you would write to her as soon as you get this & tell her of my safety & happiness. perhaps enclose this to her instead of my writing to her. Emily & I are sitting in the spacious front chamber appropriated to us: Mrs. H. & Fanny have gone to sewing circle. & Emma has just brought in a large dish of peaches for us—a few minutes since she handed a pole to our open windows & we knocked [illegible] off delicious ripe pears from the tree close by.—

Judge Ely is not living: his widow is visiting East. Is the family related to Maria?

I will write again when I hear from Chicago. My love to all who inquire for me & do not defer writing to me I want to know all that concerns you

I left one of my night gowns [illegible] but shall not need it.

Elyria
Sept. 13 1853

[illegible] tells me the [illegible] is much pleased with the idea of my coming there. A good German girl has been in the family three years & promises to stay till they get married [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

I wrote mother yesterday, directing in the care of cousin Harvey [illegible], though I [illegible] some uncertainty about her getting it. I had the promise to send it to [illegible], to await her return. I had a most kind letter from [illegible] last week urging me to come [illegible] & spend the winter, saying he would gladly pay my expenses, & would be exceedingly [illegible] if I would come. I should delight to do so, — but Providence seems to have ordered otherwise.

Oh! if I could see you all here I would talk! but as to writing I scarcely know how to begin or what to say — but in short, something has turned up — and instead of going to Chicago to teach & making a noise anywhere, I am in imminent danger of quietly sinking into the insignificance & privacy of domestic life. I can't tell how it is, — it seems like a dream to myself — that I have been brought where I now stand; — nothing could have been farther from me, though it was unsought on my part; but so it is — a plain unvarnished tale. I will [illegible]

[illegible] notes by Fanny Hopkins [illegible]

as twas told to me: A gentleman of this village, [illegible] differently called, Judge De Witt, & Dr De Witt, one of the first & best members of Mr. Hopkins' church has had the misfortune last winter to lose his wife; Mrs. Hopkins who is truly kind-hearted & very efficient, was with her much day & night & a peculiar confidence & intimacy was in consequence established between the families so, when, in process of time a companion was to be sought, he came seriously to Mr. H. for advice, & to inquire who they knew, saying he should never marry again, unless he could find his ideas, wishes, &c. met in the person & character – it happened that, just before, Mr. H. saw Emily Colman at Buffalo; – they had spoken of my going to Chicago, visiting Westfield & this place; – well, they gave him a full account of me, & Mrs. H. told him she would write to me to come on soon, & make her a visit, so that he could get acquainted, without any suspicion on my part – telling him that if I knew anything about it I should be likely to pass right on without stopping! – that I should be the last to accept any offer merely from motives of interest or convenience or for the sake of a good home! – (though a very straight-forward person, Mrs. H. has excellent sense as well as refined feeling & a good deal of it, and I truly have not any reason to charge her with want of delicacy in the matter, – a nice regard has been paid to my feelings & position all around. It appears, the said gentleman quite fixed his mind upon seeing me, – waiting & watching for my appearance you know

[illegible] Jerome has not yet returned. I should expect a letter of [illegible] ... Mr. Johnston had not then returned ... Sister Chauncy

Especially kisses to the dear little Jennie, half a dozen ... by your [illegible]

I was expected before I came) He called the first day of our arrival, spent the evening - has continued to call. Emily & I have rode with him round the country several times - and to come to the point, we are engaged!

I am satisfied with the ways of Providence concerning it - You will I think have no fears that I should act in such a matter without good grounds of confidence. The personal acquaintance is to be sure very short, but he is an old resident well known, - his character & standing established & from his position in society prominently before the world, as well as in his religious character & office, being an elder of the Presbyterian church & fully as highly esteemed & reliable in that point of view as Dea McDonald with you or Dea Titcomb. On the other hand I had been in Mr Hopkins' family two years associated so closely with them that my character & qualities must be known in their various bearings - they feel that they know me; I believe they think too highly of me; I am astonished at their high estimate of me & the amount of affectionate interest they take in me. They are very kind to me. Dr. De Witt is a native of Vermont, educated at Hanover, & studied medicine with old Dr Twitchell of Keene - he was for many years a practising physician, though not recently: is connected with the railroad of [illegible], owns stock in it to the amount of several thousands, & is considered very good property; he has been treasurer of the company for several years at a salary of 17[illegible] a year is also president of the Bank here, & has a strong [illegible]

an old established [illegible] He is tall (six feet) rather
elegant in figure, wears his own fine dark hair, has a
bright pleasant eye the color of Samuel's; he is very (he is ten or twelve years my senior)
gentlemanly, unaffected & sincere in manner, converses
well on all subjects with much fluency & ability & has
quite a dignified bearing — firm, decided, yet mild.
no one to be in his company long would suspect him
of playing any feeble part. To tell the truth I like
him: he treats me with so much delicacy, deference & sincerity of interest, that my confidence has been won in return. it has been however a trying question, making my nights most as wakeful as the days; but it is now clear & I am happy in the lot appointed me so unexpectedly, & thankful in the blessing, — for so I truly regard it — God has given me in this new friend. The consummation of the matter is necessarily hastened by circumstances to which I feel I must yield, though reluctantly. The owner of this stately old house in which Mr. Topping now lives, wishes to remove & raise it from the foundation, the workmen are ready to begin & Mr. T. must leave by the first of Oct. perhaps break up & board, for no house can be as yet obtained. & they are my friends & protectors & make my present home as you will readily perceive. Emily Colman can stay only this month, and it is very desirable in my position here that I have a friend to stand by me up to the very time: — another reason still, and the best of all is, that the 'tour' is to be to Florida, & we do not want to be travelling late in the season: only think of it, he has promised me to go and see Freeman! The important day will be in the last week in Sept. we shall start at once for Chicago go to [illegible] & spend [illegible] time [illegible] can spare from his business and return & settle down [illegible] quiet! He has a handsome house, well furnished; garden grounds containing abundance of fine fruit, & — two little daughters 13 & 7 years old, most pleasant looking children: the eldest, Hattie is charming

I [illegible]

Elyria
Feb. 14 1854

Elyria Feb 14th/54.

Dear sister Lucy

My last letter reached you I presume soon after the date of your last: I hope you will not wait for another before writing me but lest you should, I am hasting to send this, though I cannot command just now quite as good leisure as I want, I thought (as usual) when yours came, that I would write the next day. I keep thinking of Bessie, & the danger of his having other & more severe attacks of that dreadful disorder the croup:— he is just the subject for it with his chubby short neck. 'the doctor' says the best thing to do is to give Hive's syrup freely at first & irritate the skin of the throat. The great thing is I suppose to take it at the beginning.

The charge you make concerning the 'muck-rake' is I 'fess' partly true but it is only for necessary work I am not now hurried with sewing but still find each successive day pretty well filled. Since I wrote you last I have been to Cleveland again, mainly to buy materials for a head-dress to wear into 'company'.— I made it myself with the help of Fanny Hopkins' help of chenille cord crimson & black. it cost 1,00: I have attended two large parties one of them at our friend Rollins,

the other at the house of the great man of the village Mr. Ely whose wife was a Day from Hartford does Maria know any thing of them? The Ely family is from Northampton. Last Monday in the midst of washing my good Susan was called suddenly home (three miles off) because her grandmother was dying: she was gone a large part of the week & I had so much more exercise than usual so as to get quite tired one or two days after she came back we baked eight loaves of cake - black cake - light fruit & sponge cake besides a lot of my hard gingerbread for you must know I am to entertain the Ladies sewing Circle tomorrow afternoon & I expect a house full, for it is the annual meeting - a quilt is to be finished &c. so that the chamber will be occupied. I have with the efficient aid of my gude man fixed my pictures, in frames, yet without frames that is, a glass pasted at the edge by a narrow strip of white cotton cloth - the edge just brought over the glass all round, so that the pictures stand firmly on the mantel & quite ornament it. part are in "our room" part in my newly fitted chamber. I received a short letter from Isaac about a week ago inquiring when we are going east saying he should not be able to leave longer than to accompany Netty here to go on with us: I suppose she thinks of spending the summer east & probably Isaac means to go on for her in the fall. I wrote her that we

should go about Jane inviting her to come as soon as she could & stay with me till we start. I should love to have her here with me some weeks with the dear little Mayo. My husband proposes now to go east early in June to be gone from home three or four weeks, & we think now quite strongly of taking Hattie with us. He feels some hesitation on account of the trouble she will make & the additional expense but there are serious difficulties in the way of leaving her. She is of a disposition & especially of an age requiring more anxiety & careful attention than the younger one: we feel too that the journey may be of great use to her, improve her manners & in many ways have a good influence over her. On her account I feel desirous of taking her: she has been away from a very retired home very little & say very retired home because on account of her mother's health the family lived retired. She thinks going east the 'sum bonum' of earthly good - every thing good & great, beautiful & excellent is from that wonderful unknown land 'the East': such is the impression

She is affectionate & a smart capable girl but quick-tempered & high-spirited - has been heretofore shielded from correction by her mother - faults concealed from her father but is now under good training & fast improving ——

I must stop now or defer sending this till

another day. I have forgotten whether Mother's last was received before I wrote you or not. I sent out to Brownville written to her & Almeda together which probably did not reach them till she left for Bangor I mean to write to Albe na soon & answer Almeda's letter since Mother is with you & this is for her just as much as you I hope she will feel like writing me a good long motherly letter speedily full of wisdom & good counsel. I hope she will return with us when we go & stay all winter or return when Isaac goes as just as she likes best. I have not heard from Maria & Eliot yet. Love to all in haste as you see Anna

Dear Mother

Sam'l will tell you the Telegraph proposition that has come to me requiring immediate answer and action if I accept, I feel very reluctant to go right away again, when I meant to have the good long winter at least with you & Joseph, but the opportunity as far as I can judge, seems a very favorable one, — circumstances much more inviting than to go next spring or fall, to Minnesota upon uncertainties — there be at all the trouble of setting up a school on my own responsibility, At Westfield, there is a gentleman at the head of the Academy which would doubtless relieve me in respect to Algebra — it would not be going entirely among strangers, they have some knowledge of me as having been with Mrs. Hopkins two years: 'in short' it seems as if it would not be right to decline a chance apparently so desirable which Providence has brought to me. The journey

would be nearly all by railroad, occupying but three or four days and I can come home very easily in vacation. So had I not best go? Say, all of you. I shall send a telegraph to-day of probabilities - write a letter, - not fully decide, till I get an answer. —

I mean at some rate or other to come up to Milo in the course of the week to stay the fortnight before I start. hope we shall all get up there safely this week —

Lucy is quite comfortable - only cannot walk or sit up all day on account of her back. we fear the ride up will be too much for her — Am glad you have a bed in the sitting room on Lucy's account

Love to all.

Jane's every day dress is left for Mr. Finney's to wash to-day. Lucy wants you to take a little care that she wears enough with her thin gingham so as not to take cold. — additional skirt and something on her arms. — —

Read the letter first and then the scribbling.

Warwick Dec 27 1832

I received your long expected letter about a fortnight since and this afternoon I will employ it in telling you that I am well and where I am, what I have been, and am doing. First I have for [illegible] been engaged in teaching the centre district small school [illegible] Taylor's: My school consists of about 36, mostly under ten [illegible] is far more fatiguing than any school I ever taught, though [illegible] forward one; I have a class in Olney's, & Parley's Geography and the Child's Arithmetic, none either in Grammar or [illegible]. My boarding place is in every respect pleasant: Dr Taylor is a very pleasant and social man, though one would hardly suppose so from a slight acquaintance with him: and you know what a kind and good, as well as agreeable woman, Mrs. Taylor is; they have quite recently been called to mourn their youngest daughter, a bright and lovely child of eight years, [illegible] very suddenly, the day before I came here to board; Mrs T. feels very [illegible], she wishes me to give her love to you, & wishes you would remember her at the throne of Grace in reference to her affliction. ~~that~~ Sarah now the only daughter is a young lady of a good mind, and truly amiable manners. they have [illegible] fine smart boys; the two youngest attend my school; I spend the evenings [illegible] in reading and study, have plenty of good books, ~~[illegible]~~ they board the master too, and keep two fires; My wages are quite small only $1,00 per week but that is better than none, and I am more pleasantly situated as to means of improvement, than I should be at any of my Uncles: the time however is short, but four or five weeks longer, after which I think I shall visit Royalston and Troy to stay a week or two, and what my course will be then, I know not. My last letter to you was dated at Aunt Conant's; I spent three weeks there very happily I did most all my own sewing, cut & made Aunt a hood and assisted Ann Whitney in cutting a dress like one of mine; & visited at Mr. W. while there, the only visit except one, which I have made here. I have not yet spent much time at Grandmother's except a day when Aunt [illegible] was there she staid one week in town and came without husband or children I should think there was a great change in her I heard her say very little upon religion, but Eliza Rich told me that she had talked with Grandmother considerable about the manner their family had been brought up, & said [illegible]

that the Universalist sentiments which she received early in life, closed her mind against every thing good' she invited me to go home with her, and spend the winter, or to come next spring; said I should find employment there in teaching school; she has not united with any church yet, but I believe attends meeting at the Dutch Reformed; From Uncle's Conants; I went to Uncle Williams's, staid there a week, and went to Northfield where I spent a fortnight. Abby has lately as she trusts experienced religion, she had long been anxious and doubting, now she feels very happy. Jerusha is a lovely girl, naturally uncommonly amiable, and eminently possessing the Christian Graces of humility and self-denial; these girls have in many respects a hard time, their house and work so inconvenient, they have all their clothing to procure by their own industry, besides doing the work; Jerusha has gone to N. to spend the winter with Ardelia, and attend the high School; Esther goes to the master here, and Henry and Lucy to me; Henry certainly improves some and I am inclined to think that if he is brought forward, and taken pains with, he will make a decent man; capable of taking care of himself. Lucy is a pretty child, with some of Mary's sprightliness, joined with Ardelia's sweetness of disposition. I spent a week with Ardelia, very pleasantly, she lives over the river from Mrs. Barber's, in a little snug house, prettily situated: her husband, Mr Dickinson, is a rusty farmer 44 years old, without a great share of refinement, either of mind or manners, as I should think, though a man of sterling good sense, and honest and clever: Ardelia is truly a fine woman; she has a sensible and well informed mind, and great sweetness as well as refinement of manners; I enjoyed She has a son three weeks old — born since I left N. myself much, she was alone, and had no company while I was there: but I could not but regret the difference between her & her husband, & wish she could have married somebody more worthy of her, but after all, she is very well settled, and as the saying is, has made out well; he is worth 4 or 5 thousand, clear from debt, and is every way a likely man, and very kind to her. There was a protracted meeting at N. while I was there, which I attended; it was very interesting, & I hope I have derived some benefit from it, there was a minister from New York there he was a disciple of Mr Finney and is said to possess his manner he is a smart man and I think did good at N.

Jan. 1st I wish all of you a happy new year: I am glad that Chandler teaches school this winter, but he will need to walk very straight, and exert himself to the utmost; there is such a spirit of improvement abroad with respect to common schools, that an old-fashioned good teacher will hardly give satisfaction: however, if he only becomes as heartily engaged in the improvement of his school, as in his band &c., no doubt but what he will keep a good school. You did not write whether the children had much desire or make much exertion to improve their minds of course they will go to school &c. I feel deeply for poor Naomi. I can hardly realize the fact that she, so sensible & so agreeable is indeed a maniac: but the purposes of Providence we cannot fathom.

I have, as usual, many plans for the future, whether any of them will succeed is extremely uncertain;—as to your project—though in many respects very pleasant—I hardly think it would be expedient. I fully respond to the spirit of the old maxim, that "home is home be it ever so homely," and, I have had occasion to feel the truth of it too, but after [illegible] spending so much as I have, to gain a competent education, ought [illegible] do better, than to keep a few weeks in a year, a hard & not fatiguing [illegible]ool & teach a, b, c, ab, &c. which the commonest "country girl round [illegible] can do, and, probably too, at less wages than the servant girls receive: and if I should not keep at all, I should earn nothing, and of course have nothing, while I should be constantly spending something, and I should have to regret that I had spent considerable time and money, to gain accomplishments and acquirements, which would be above my station and would not probably increase my usefulness, & which would be of little real use to me. I believe that one who watches the indications of Providence with a sincere desire to be guided by them, will be directed in his course, but, not without the exercise of the reasoning powers, in comparing and judging between advantages disadvantages &c. Select schools taught by females, are very popular in every little village, and it seems to me I had better try in this way, either in this vicinity, or in Maine, I should very much prefer the latter, if there was equal prospect of success. I wish I could be situated in Bangor, either in a private school or as assistant in the High school established there: What do you think of this plan that I have formed—to ascertain, by writing to Mr. Pomeroy whether there is any favorable prospect, or opening there, for me next spring, and if so, do up my visiting, after closing my school there (which will be in three weeks) and go to Boston, spend a few weeks there in reviewing my studies, perfecting myself in drawing, &c. & preparing to go to Bangor as soon as spring opens, I have been engaged in teaching in Boston since I left her, & possibly might succeed better on that account, but I wish Ann Hale had really got married. I think Mother that if you consider the matter all round, you will think I had better persevere, & not now give up trying to earn something; there is the apparatus and globe which will be of little use if I do not keep school, & besides I have spent money for clothing which I shall need, to keep school but which would otherwise be unnecessary.

Elizabeth Ann Reed.

Ann Dec 29th
1832
Warwick

Lucy
Ando[illegible]
[illegible]

Warwick
Jan 1st
18 3/4

Mrs. Anna M. [illegible]
[illegible] Me.

[illegible] Bangor [illegible] should be [illegible] in season to [illegible] expedient [illegible] engage in a [illegible] spend a few weeks [illegible] better be there [illegible] Boston [illegible] a place [illegible] I had better not try the [illegible] ensuing [illegible]

I am glad you wrote about music & about Mr. Pratt,— If circumstances should be such that I should determine to learn of him I mean to be precise about terms &c. I am inclined to think I should succeed better in Bangor to teach music but there are so many things I want to learn that I do not know as I ought to devote the time to it. I mean to be governed by circumstances & not spend much more, until I have earned something— Ann—

Aunt Bonaparte furnished me with yarn for knit sleeves which I find very comfortable.

I wrote to Pelatiah for my school books, but said nothing about the apparatus, but either through his or Caroline's mistake, he sent all the apparatus, but if I teach in this vicinity next summer I shall want it here. I sent too, for a Circassian dress to wear this winter, it cost nearly $4.50 but it is a good one, My Merino I had coloured bottle green. bought some new & had it made over into a pelisse

My dress is very much warmer this winter than it was last, though the weather is much more mild.

1835

I hope to get some who live in the vicinity of my school, but it is uncertain:— I am going to get some more cards and get Col. Metcalf for reference — I have joined a young ladies' Sewing Circle lately the object of which is to clothe poor children on condition of their attending Sabbath School. the Society consists of 30 young L. and meet once a month and sew an evening a member pays ,25 per year, and a fine of ,6¼ for every absence from meeting I am Sec. and have the doings of each meeting to write off and a yearly report to make the meetings for sewing are opened with prayer and closed with singing & it it a standing rule that no Young lady shall refuse to open the meeting if called upon— Is it not a good rule?

Almeda does not know that I am going to send this morning, you must write soon what your conclusion is about Isaac and advise me what I had better do about paying for an additional fire or changing my boarding,— I am becoming more and more known, and the success of my school depends some upon the impressions that are formed about my respectability &c. I have bought me a large plaid Shawl (4,50) & am very glad I can't do without it,— they will be worn very late if not all winter Olive has spent a day with us this week,— she is trying to sell Pel's clothes to get a miniature of him, &.

Ann has written what she knows to be absolutely false in several particulars for instance I never said I would not answer your letter but that as you had mentioned 1.00 or 1.25 for Isaacs board that I could not or should not tell what I thought it would cost us and I never told more to her about the cost than to say that I thought it would cost as much or more than for her and that it cost every cent of 125 for her. with regard to Lucy

Boston Nov 19 1835

Dear Mother

We received yours of Nov 4th in due season and we ought to have answered it immediately, and I thought A. was going to from day to day, but she says to night that she can't now, so I thought I would write what I could this evening and send it without more delay. We are all perfectly well; Lucy has been well ever since you went, (she got better immediately) but her mind is not so much upon her studies as it was last summer she is devoted to play, she would like to play from morning to night, & like all other little girls every thing else is irksome to her I am not sure but it would have been the way of duty for you to have taken her home with you, for I am afraid the benefit to her will not balance the expense — and sent Isaac here instead, he could help A. so much that Almeda would take him at a less ~~than~~ price, and it would be a lasting and decided benefit to him. — James & Almeda think they can't afford to take Isaac for less than it would cost them, and they say it would actually cost (washing &c.) as much as $1\frac{3}{4}$ per week, Almeda says that L's board costs more than \$1.25 every week, that she dont need her help at all, and that she considers she is actually giving it, but she says she and James are willing to give one of the children their board to go school, all the time, but can't have but one at a time &c. — It does not seem just so to me about Lucy, though to be sure Almeda could get along without her as well as not, — and it takes expense and time to keep her decent here, but if you had taken Lucy home you could afford to pay a low price for Isaac's board, and there would not be so much obligation felt, as ~~the~~ one of the children's having their board given them I don't wish it, ~~nor~~ should not ~~consent~~ to it

If it was not so late in the season I should decidedly think best to send L.

to spirits and have Isaac come & you can't money enough to pay the price for his board that you would have to pay at Foxcroft. I could do Isaac more good than Lucy & she will have time enough to be here if she lives, Almeda may see the time when she'll need her help & be thankful for it, and, possibly I may sometime be in a situation to benefit her more than now. J. & A. feel poor and I wish it was in my power to pay my board constantly; I should be truly glad if I could pay all I owe them now: I expect to pay 1,75 this winter, I proposed it rather than not have a fire & place to sit up stairs; I drink nothing but cold water; they are both rather opposed to sitting in the parlour ~~and would be glad if I would~~ but I have offered to pay ~~all~~ the additional expense. (Almeda would be really happy if she could have no one but herself and James in the family, and get down in the cellar kitchen with her work of all kinds all handy, if she could be sure nobody would come to see her all winter! to be serious I do think A. is too much shut up in herself and hus. and that if she did her duty in the sight of God she would try to "communicate" some good to others by Christian intercourse; what a pity that a person possessing the superior mind and talents that she does, should centre all her powers in her own self. She might, if imbued with the right spirit, by exerting her talents for conversation & by improving and communicating her knowledge she might do incalculable good in daily neighbourly intercourse, and be a great gainer herself too: I fear that Charles and I as well as she will have a great deal to answer for ~~not~~ in not improving the talents and privileges committed to us: I am satisfied that it is sinful for Christians to hold back from duty because they are not sure that they shall act in the best manner or because it is trying. My School is just as it was when you left but I have some reason to hope that it will fill up in the course of the winter, for Miss Dorr (close by James's shop) is going to give up her school 1st Jan. & I think it very probable that I may get some of hers though she has engaged to go round with another teacher and use her influence for

1835

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I never said or thought that it would cost more than 125 but said that perhaps it would be better to have one of the boys because they would improve the time better and and that her help is not more than the work she makes James and I both feel perfectly willing and choose to have one of the children here and give them their we think while we have our health we can afford to and choose we have 125 per week for Ann's board and she has proposed 25 more if we will keep two fires there is not room for all I wish to say nor even to contradict all Ann's misrepresentations I really did not know before that she did feel so towards me she ought not to for I know I have done well by her I will write next week

Ann
Nov 11 1835
Boston

Boston Aug. 8th 1836.

Dear Mother

I haste to inform you that you have a little Grand
daughter born the First day of Aug. Almeida is quite comfort-
able & is getting along well. she was sick but a short time; the Dr. did
not arrive till afterwards: she has a fine fat baby with forehead
and eyes exactly like its fathers: its name is Almeida & I do not
know whether any thing else or not. They are much pleased about it
Mrs. Cook says J. is so "tickled she dont know what to do with himself.
They are going into the country to show her to his folks as soon as A.
is able to journey. — — I had a good journey, arrived at Mr. P's.
about 4 or 5 o clock. — I did not feel hungry on the way & did not take din
ner but went out after the passengers had dined & asked for a piece [illegible]
and bread & butter, made a good dinner, & paid —, 25! I tried to make
make take ,6¼ but could not. There was a Young Lady from Portland
at Mr. Pomroy's teaching a private school, for young ladies recently
established, she has 16 or 17 at 6,00 per quar. for all, a capital
chance; her name is Jane Lincoln, she kept school with Ann Learn-
ed at Portland: she expects to have a gentleman take charge of the
school and she assist in it. Mr. P[illegible]roy set an alarm clock at 4½
and had his boy go with my things in a handcart, and I walked down
to the boat alone (it starts at 5), — I should much rather Mr. P. would
have gone with me, but I suppose he did not <u>like</u> to take so long
a walk so early. I found several persons from Bangor with whom I
had been acquainted, Mr. & Mrs. Mcgaw who were at the Springs
and others, a gentleman & wife from Salem whom I told you about as be-
ing on board, when I went down, — and as being acquainted with Mrs.

Perkins family, they took me under their wing, & really seemed like old friends. a [illegible] [illegible] looking old gentleman, too was so polite as to take all the care of my baggage, wait upon me in changing boats &c. & when we got into Boston he engaged a hack and saw me & baggage safe in. I was highly favoured through [illegible] [illegible] journey, we had delightful weather & was not sick: I got home at 5 o'clock Wednes. morning & [illegible] and [illegible] I believe I must tell you, what I did [illegible] [illegible]. I breakfasted, changed my dress went out and made four calls, one at Mr. Fox's one at Mr. Childs stopped on the way, went to Mr Caleb Metcalf's where I arrived about 10, I chatted with [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], (she had been very sick with the dysentery then I called at Mr. W.'s store and borrowed a book to read at the sewing circle, looked into shops all the way back, and purchased a muslin dress, pink, green & white, but not handsome the whole dress, cutting and all, cost 2,72 well, came home and dined, went again at 1 o'clock & had my measure taken for my dress, came home laid down and slept an hour, changed my dress again and went to Sewing Circle, at 6 I went again to the Mantua's had my dress fitted & brought it home, then swallowed some supper and went to Teacher's Meeting at Mr Eyers — the [illegible] [illegible] day, I was so lame and tired that I could not move without pain, but I finished my dress and wore it Sunday — About a week ago I mentioned to Mrs. Sleeper about my dinners and about the little girl from Salem coming to school; she caught at the proposal & asked me how much she should give me besides the dinners, I told her I was willing to school the little girl for the dinners, so the next day she got me to write a letter to the girl's mother in her (Mrs Sleeper's) name to have her come. I suppose I might have got more but I am not sorry on the whole that I did not, for as she thinks she has a good bargain, she will take pains to please, &c. and I can afford to teach a quiet little girl seven years old. for my dinners 4 days & Wednesdays when I wish. I think I shall try to find another boarding place when A. goes out of town, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to board she should prefer going to a stranger's ~~though [illegible]~~ says she to me, you would enjoy yourself a great deal better if you were in a larger family, & more society, she had quite a talk about it with me one day of her own accord, for I said nothing first alluding to the subject. she said young married folks are all self, and

The [illegible], [illegible] at Mr. Tomson['s] called it [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] it

when they come to have a third one in the family, every thought is taken, & "sister may shirk for herself — she's seen enough of it where she has been nursing & shouldn't advise any one to board with a sister" &c. &c. she does not like the cold water, graham bread, no meat &c. she has the whol direction of the cooking & work which I like grandly. — —

I had 2 new Scholars come in the 1st Aug. (besides Mrs. Sleeper's girl) one 12 the other 11 pretty girls tuition $11,00 for both, their father is a painter by profession but I don't know whether miniatures or what particular branch one scholar has left gone to primary since vacation, I have done nothing about the globe yet, it is in my schoolroom, and I can use it as it is, & if I find the expense of repairing would be inconsiderable I shall.

I forgot to say that I did not see Mrs. Parker but I did speak with Mary & I think that will answer the same purpose I told what you said, & asked her if her Mother would not inform you whether she wanted a boy, she said certainly, her mother would, I presume she will write you about it. Mrs. Pom[redacted] much taste for Natural History, if Isaac should then I think they would take some knowledge of him. ——

It is almost school time & I must leave writing don't fail to write soon advise me what to do, when A. goes her journey, perhaps I may not find a suitable place before, if not would you keep house, or go to any place merely for a time. — — Would it be p... and less at any rate to go to a boarding house?

I must close so good bye all, give my love to Lee's &c.

E. A. Pike.

The morning Mr. Pomroy called, it rained some, said A. is much pleased with it. I laughed in my sleeve to hear Mr. Thomas enquire at every shopping place have you a cask to put this pkg? & the answer was no! but he found one before we got to Bangor.

Dear Brother Mayo and Elizab are going to write to you so I thought I would put in a few lines. I heard [illegible] arrived there safe. How do you enjoy your self there doing nothing or going to school. How does Dear little [illegible] get along and do [illegible] like her. Do you [illegible] to take any care of her? I should like to see her very much. What did you do with the [illegible] dising [illegible]. Did you let her up on wheels? Elizab and I go to school and Mayo [illegible] at home and does the chores.

Mrs. Anna M. Metcalf
Mio Me. Penob. Co.

Lucy & Ann
Aug 8 1836
Boston

[illegible] 1836

The Master's name is [illegible] the minister's son. I believe he is a pretty good [illegible] I have heard he defyed any boy to bring him [illegible] he could [illegible] do. Maria Hill has gone to Exeter to keep school, and Martha Lee to [illegible]. Charles is keeping school at Sebec. How does James [illegible] and [illegible] do? Have you been into [illegible] school yet? Why does not Jane Bresans answer my letters? [illegible] there at home while you do not [illegible]

Boston May 19th 1837.

Dear Mother,

Isaac went from here the 22d of April and we suppose he has got home before this time but we have heard nothing, and we begin to feel rather anxious, we received a little note from him dated Gloucester and we expected you would some of you write as soon as he arrived. We fear he had a rough unpleasant passage with poor accommodations. I want exceedingly to hear particularly how affairs go on, down east, these hard times, do you see any specie nowadays? it is impossible to get any bill changed here either in a bank or store, & a dollar in silver brings, 17, a great many rich men have had all their property stripped from them, & a great many have been thrown out of employment; the season too is very cold and backward; J. expects every day, to be discharged ~~from~~ his earnings have been small for some time; he & Almeda expect to start for Milo the first of June to stay six or eight weeks & perhaps longer. Curtis Searles has moved out to Newton & buried a child last week. My school remains much as usual, one of my best patrons failed a few days ago and sent me a note that she should be obliged to send to public school. I get along I hardly know how, I do not lay up any thing beside expenses, though I have enough money to use with economy. Almeda sold that wax to Mr Thaxter for not quite $4.00 & can purchase any thing you want before she goes if you will write what. I felt very sorry that I did not get a stock ready to send by Isaac & in reading your letter after he went I observed some spice mentioned which we entirely

forgot it might have been sent as well as not. We received a letter from Uncle Joseph not long since requesting J. to buy Jenks Commentary for him & Aunt E. together. Mary Barber is in the Insane hospital at Brattleborough. Uncle W. has broken up housekeeping. You must write without fail before A. starts and don't forget me after she is there. I want to know more particularly about you all.

Does Isaac attend to his writing? Do S. M. & L & E improve their minds any? How does Charles get along?

I have not time to fill up this sheet as it must go this morning in order to reach you in season to have an answer before Almeda goes. Remember me to the Sargents Lee's Hill's &c.

Affectionately E. A. Rich

Berlin

May 11 '37

Boston Aug. 21st 1835

Dear Mother

I am going to scratch a few lines in a hurry to tell you what Almeda and I have just thought of. It is to have Mayo (Isaac is too old), come right here immediately and enter if he can the free Eng. High School: A. can afford to board him, without much expense & there would be no direct expense ~~directly~~ out except his clothes: There would be just the studies and discipline of mind that he needs, he could leave at any time, and no better recommendation could be found to get him into any good place than coming from the High School, These are the advantages, but the great thing is it would save more than half the expense, and he be more favorably placed, as to influence religious, & intellectual, than we could expect to have him any where else; The School at Andover is not less than $6.00 tuition, & board 2, or 3 dolls, unless they should board in common which Caleb says is not the best thing for boys: he says the School at Andover is the best about here, and Isaac could still go there a while, and, he being older could probably more readily find employment than Mayo; I suppose you feel some objection to their being at different places, but I do not think it is much; Isaac has got to be old enough to learn to depend upon himself, and experience is the only efficient teacher, and till he does go out into the world he never will have the mental discipline & moral courage that are gained by depending upon one's own resources. Almeda & I both think this course would be best, the School begins in a fortnight from next Mond., and he must get here a to be examined before that time; so he would need to come just as soon as it is possible for you to send him, without fixing him in the least, we can do that. Charles may find it difficult to get the money and if I had it on hand, I feel so anxious to accomplish this, that I would send some in this letter but I can't now, he can get it I know at some rate or other, and if necessary I will send it back to him. Do not deliberate too long, but just think over all the advantages, & how few objections (that I can see) even if he should fail of being admitted, & that is not likely, there would be no great harm done he would only be here a little sooner:

I must not stop to say any more, but [illegible] write soon, when I send the bundle: Let Mayo bring I with him my green book trunk I want to send the gowns &c in it.

In Haste E. A. Rich

Small

Milo Me Sept. 16 1838

Dear Brother

We ~~onfo~~ received your letter Thursday informing us of your Crisis &c and as Mother is going to send a certificate to get you out of Purgatory, I thought I would write a few lines to tell you how we get along nowadays Things go on about as they used to here. Last Monday 2 monday of Sept was Election day. the votes in this were, Whig 72, Loco-foco 73, conservative or F. O. J. Smith 5. Robert Hervey is elected Rep. of Dutton 46 maj Monday morning as I was getting the sheep I found a large flock of partriges over in the green woods, but before I could get the gun the dog scattered them so that I could kill but 5 Wednesday we burnt of the ~~[illegible]~~ they burnt well, that night it began to rain and rained hard till about 5 thursday, What time did it begin and end at Boston. We have had but 3 days help about reaping Russell 1 day while Charles was gone to Bangor, Shriford 1, and W J Godse 1 day for Bill. Hamblin. We mowed about about 3 acres of wheat and bound the swaths. We mow about all the Oats, got back at [illegible], the [illegible] by the road was pretty good and not hurt by frost much The Oats are all good Charles has broke up about 4 acres on the upper end of the intervale with the horses I have shot 2 muskrats 1 great and 1 little

Muskrats 1 great and 1 little Hampshire

Jan. 1st 1833

I wish you all a happy new year. I did not intend to wait till another year before writing again, but Almeida sent her letter the week I was intending to so I thought best to put it off. My health is very good, my school is about as usual, consisting of 23, or 24 scholars. I have rather more work than usual, which takes up my time out of school hours. I find it requires much labour, and care, and time too to do my duty in such a school. The preceding was written a fortnight ago, but ~~it has~~ having been more than usually engaged, I have put off writing from day to day. Since I began this letter three scholars have left, in consequence of their father's being turned out of an office in the Custom house: — so fluctuating is a private school; I feel sometimes quite discouraged, for with all my care, vigilance, and labour, I have but a scanty and precarious living. I feel sometimes ready to complain that my lot is hard but I know that is wrong, while enjoying so many blessings, & so undeserving of any. It has been you know my ambition from my girlhood to be the teacher of a "genteel" school and now that my object is attained, I find it far different from what my ardent & sanguine feelings anticipated — not that I have any special trouble or trial to complain of, on the contrary, I am every way pleasantly situated, but I have always been so prone to look forward, expecting, hoping much for the future, and laying plans for happiness, that the rugged, plodding path of dull reality, seems cheerless and desolate. I can look back on my past life and see that in all the way in which I have been led, my Heavenly Teacher, has been learning me lessons, which I have been slow and unwilling to receive. I do feel some gratitude for his long suffering, and condescension, & am enabled sometimes to rejoice in all His dealings.

Olive 26 Common Str.

uncertain whether I continue my school here, the times, and the high estimation in which the public Schools stand, do affect private schools & will continue to do so; If my school were ever so permanent, I should much rather teach a common school in the country as to the business itself; but it is a great privilege to attend meetings, to be in Sabbath School, and to be favored with Christians, on this account I should feel it to be a great trial to be obliged to give up my school. Except in this respect I do not feel at all solicitous about my school, but am willing to continue or not, just as Providence directs. At my boarding place it is pleasant, I have enjoyed myself very well ever since I have been here. Almeda wrote you that the eldest daughter 18 years old hopes she has experienced a change of heart, you can judge what a source of happiness it has been to me to see her serious, anxious, and finally, decided in the Christian course. she meets with some opposition, is not allowed to go to any "night meetings" & has to bear some tauntings &c. —— She attends Episcopal Church within a few doors of us and will probably unite with them the minister I have heard, he is an evangelical preacher and a devoted Christian apparently; Our Sabbath School is very large & more than usually so now, Six members of the Bible Classes have become hopefully pious within the last six months. My class contains seven, it has been much more interesting the last year than before. I usually attend meetings every Tues. Friday, & every Saturday singing meeting, & every Monday in the month but one – the last Mond. in the month we have a tract visitor's concert – very interesting. – Our Sewing circle is flourishing meets once a month, or oftener. I have lately become rather intimately acquainted with Mrs. Hancock, wife of a Sea Capt., and engaged Christian, a member of our church & the teacher of the Bible Class which Susan (where I board) is in, through her (Mrs. H.'s) means, Susan and I have been invited to attend a social

Fresh School: Lucy must be amiable, neat, & industrious & learn

I should think all the children need to pay especial attention to writing

meeting as they call it of Mr Tenney's Bible Class at the Free Church. — he (Mr Tenney) has a class of more than 30 females, 11 or 12 of whom have been hopefully converted during the year — they, together with a male bible class, have a meeting once in a while for social, free religious conversation the object being, to become acquainted, & to converse with the impenitent members of the class. I have attended several of these meetings and have found them interesting & improving. I distribute tracts to about 20 families every month & attend a female prayer meeting every Saturday afternoon, so you see I have not a great deal of leisure. I went to Lowell last summer in vacation, & was much pleased with my visit, Mrs CM. has a beautiful boy, looks much like Caleb, Isaac is really a fine enterprising young man, & Enoch strives to be all he can; Caleb was in town a few weeks ago, but I scarcely saw him, he has improved much, he intends to enter colledge next [illegible] & means to be a very thorough scholar. Mrs. C. Metcalf visited Almeda last [illegible] I wrote a letter to Uncle Joseph, a month or two since, but we have heard nothing from Warwick for a long time, except by Mrs Russell in Oct. Harvey Conant has a son Hannah Stevens is engaged to a Mr Parsons of Northfield. Rich Gale called upon Almeda to day, & brought a letter from Aunt Conant & one from H. Stevens; Aunt C. is well, & all the folks, Aunt E is at Uncle Joseph's — Uncle W's girls are all out of town, Esther is courted, Mary is no better, — Grandmother R. is well, he brought a quit claim deed for us to sign. — James, A. & the baby are well, she grows pretty every day; A. has lately taken a boarder (Graham) a young man who works with James, he does not lodge there now though they talk of taking him, A. is very hearty. James sent an order to Bangor for that meal by the Capt. of a vessel about a fortnight since; has heard noth[ing] I am sorry Charles has so many trials & difficulties to struggle with

Jan. 14th

Mrs Child with all their wealth are not free from trouble: Henry does not do as his parents would like, at all; he is out every night particularly Sat. nights till late merely carousing drinking &c. he is apparently travelling the road to ruin, speaking according the manner of the world as fast as he can — unless he alters his course soon he will bring disgrace upon himself & his parents he is in no business — this we have learned partly from Mrs Langley and partly from other sources. Elisabeth is in good health, very fleshy & shapely in her form, but the same good simple girl. Aunt Humphrey staid a fortnight there; just called upon A. We do not call upon Mrs Child very often. — Mayo Hazeltine is a wholesale merchant here, L. Richardson has returned to Winchendon, I believe to engage with Mr Reed in his store. Caroline Chase has a fine daughter & is in pretty good health. — Olive Metcalf is going to marry a widower with three children we have heard

How do Isaac and Mayo get along? — Isaac is as old now as Father was when he began

I should think all the children would need to pay especial attention to writing

I go to school This Winter, to Mr Frost, I study History, Geography, Gramar, Writing, Spelling, Reading: I am in the first Class, Reading Spelling Parsing, and Geography. and History. There is about 45 scholars. My Brother Isaac is studying Latin this Winter. I should like very much indeed to come to Boston to go to school while you are staying at your Uncle Thaxters. And I should like to have you come here and see me some time. Do you go to my sisters school yet?

Give my love to Ann Eliza Page, and all the scholars Won't you ask them to write to me often, And do write yourself too. Tell them that I have not yet received an answer to my letters to them by my sister. Give little Lucy a good hearty kiss for me. Write soon. Good bye.

Your affectionate friend

Lucy [illegible]

Dear Mother

Boston. Dec. 25th 1838.

I suppose you wonder why you have not heard from here before, but we have all been so driven we could not well write. I will write some of my news without any order because I am in a plaguy hurry.

I have now attended school 1 quarter and 3 weeks over. I am now the 9 or 10 rank in my class. We had a week vacation at Thanksgiving and have 1 day [1 day] for Christmas. Tell Charles that his cousin David Alonzo is sentenced to 5 years in the State prison for Stealing &c. He has ~~bee~~ appealed to the Supreme Court but Uncle Joseph thinks the sentence will be confirmed. Almeida rec'd a letter from Uncle J. yesterday. Aunt Esther is at Barnard, Vt. with Sam'l. Conant. We have been through Worcester's Geography 1½ times, & ~~100~~ 100 pages in Emerson's Third part Arith besides going through Colburn's 1st lessons. 35 pages in French Grammar. I have of late excelled all but one (the head of the class) in Writing Compositions, & equalled him! We two, are chief of 49 in Writing Comp. I desire to hear all about all your school, farm, cattle, crops, work, studies, new neighbors, prosperity, and peace; and every thing else. Joseph M.

Brethren & Sister, I want to know about your condition, state, employments, studies, amusements, recreations, business, cares, troubles, and perplexities, &c. &c. so write me a long, concise, & full letter. Isaac, write me a letter in Langue Latin, with Translation, and I will try to answer it in Tongue François; it may be a useful exercise to both. Lucy & Eliab, if you will write me I'll try to return the favor. How many cattle have you sold? What kind of weather do you have? Last time I wrote you one of my titles H. S. Pig will now write another, J. M. Metcalf, Member of the English Classical school of Boston which suits ye best? Good bye, &c. M. E. C. S. B.

Jan 4th. 1839. I wish you all a happy new year! There is some news which I forgot to mention: viz. Mrs. Shaw has a daughter about 5 or 6 weeks old named Rebecca —

James, think there will be chances for me to go in to a wholesale store in the spring and get about $50. first year $100. 2nd yr. $150. 3d yr. $200. 4th year &c. My board would probably cost $130 per year at least. What is your opinion as to what's best to do? Joseph.

I see so many advantages in a good situation here that it is my private opinion that J. had better stay. I think he would find friends and perhaps be favored more than some boys would. He is a very good boy in behaviour. J. & A. think him to set in his own way & get some things & not willing enough to take advice. [sideways in right margin: but I have found him ready to give up his way as soon as he was convinced it was not the best, & I think in the main ... longer in]

[upside down at top: this point & needs admonition and caution. — he has some of the elements of a [illegible] and we must look after it. ... The honey was all sold in week or two for 1/- per lb & amounted to $.17 or 18 & as much sent every year would be quite a lift for you, without costing much. —]

Boston, Jan. 4th 1859

Dear Mother

I did not intend it should be so long before an answer would be sent to your letter but as [illegible] says I have been "driven" — I was unusually faithful in tract visiting last month being the close of the year, I made calls upon above 40 families stopping awhile to converse with most of them; I commonly carry tracts to only about 20 families because we go separately, (Miss Mann & I,) but last month we went together which took almost all my spare time except evenings for three weeks, (this month I carried them all in two hours, it was a new year's card to be left at the door only) I have been attending a course of free lectures to teachers every Wednes. for several weeks, on different subjects connected with education, by different gentlemen which are instructive and interesting. My health is, as usual perfectly good, my school is pretty full, I have several attending to drawing and painting which takes my time out of school, but is more profitable, I sometimes feel almost weary of my school with its vexations, turmoils & responsibilities, and look back upon the winter I spent at Milo with my school in the 'fore room' with something like regret that such happy easy days will probably never come again — with some such feelings I suppose as all who have gone far enough on the journey of life to have its cares a reality look back upon by-gone days. How hard a lesson it is, to learn not to expect our happiness from this world, and place dependence on it: but the sooner we learn this lesson I believe, the more happiness we shall enjoy: I have thought much of your expression, in the close of your letter, that the more we keep eternity in view, the happier we shall be, and I fully believe it, but we keep forgetting that we are but 'strangers and pilgrims' here, and keep looking round and trying to grasp at something in this world that we can depend upon for happiness. The thought of growing old, and losing all the freshness of youth with the bright hopes & sanguine anticipations of the 'morning of life,' sometimes is painful to me, but at other times I can feel thankful that I have passed so many of the snares and temptations that beset us at this golden period. The prevailing feeling of my mind is that of peace and content ment, — I do not now look forward to any 'great things' but it is my desire to be satisfied and happy wherever, and with whatever my Heavenly Father shall appoint: — we are sure that all things shall work together for our good if we are indeed his children; I can see that even my little disappointments, rebuffs, and discouragements, have been really for my good; and how unreasonable it is not to place full confidence in the faithfulness of our God & Saviour. —

C. had better not be in a hurry to get [illegible] — let him [illegible] riding his [illegible] if he [illegible] some young thing without education & [illegible] his way through his difficulties & looking for [illegible] from above, the thing will doubtless vanish instead of [illegible]

I have not room to say any thing particularly to you all, but it is not because I do not think of all — A. is as well as we could expect — Sarly is well — a sweet child —

Sometimes I feel anxious and troubled when thinking of your cares, and difficulties, and ~~the~~ what shall be done with the children, and then I find it a great consolation to ~~trust in~~ think of the promises of God to the widow and fatherless and as a family plead those promises; no doubt these promises are precious to you, ~~and~~ are, and have been, the source of rich consolation in all your trials. With regard to Joseph I must be thinking what is best for him to do; I suppose, without doubt a place might be obtained in a store for him in the spring, in every respect eligible; but he would have to give his time and probably more for the first year; James and others think some wholesale store would be best, and, in such, boys rarely receive more than a dollar a week which you know would not pay his board. A few weeks ago there was a chance for him to go into a small unitarian bookstore for 2 $. per week but we thought not best for him to go there, so did Mr Bush & Whipple whose advice was asked. Mr Whipple's partner wants an apprentice to the printing business & he asked Joseph if he did not want that place, but James thinks that would be very poor business for him, so much is done by steam and girls. If he should learn a trade his board and clothes would be provided; James and others think that a wholesale store would give him a better knowledge of business, and more opportunities of rising in the world, than any other store; the advantages he would enjoy here, make it desirable, I think on many accounts that he should stay rather than go back on to a farm, he will I hope become favourable known as a boy of religious principles, and intelligent mind, and from the influences he will meet with, he will be more likely to make a decided and useful Christian, here: he has told his Sabbath School teacher that he hopes he is a christian; & if his future conduct and feelings show that he is truly a child of God, it would be highly important, that he should make a profession of religion as he would be less apt to be led away from the path of duty. He does not express a great desire for staying here, though I believe it is rather his wish, but if it is not best for him to have a permanent stay and business here it is not best for him to go into any store, because he could get no wages at first. Almira's situation and family will be such next spring & summer that she cannot board him, and ~~the~~ expense besides what he can earn must be furnished somehow; — if my school should be as good as it is now I could probably do it, but that is uncertain; You & C. must think it over and write very soon so that we can know what course to take. I am thinking some of finding another boarding place for Joseph & I, especially if he does not stay longer than till spring: it would be a great relief to A. on account of her health, and the additional expense would not be so great as the additional benefit to Joseph, to be in a good boarding house ~~among~~ in good society, a library

it would have to be done in the spring if not now & I want to find a place for myself for several reasons — I think it would be better every account to take this course now, except the expense, and I do not yet know what we could be boarded for — I want a good long letter of comfortable advice and wholesome, on every subject from you, do not neglect us as we have you in writing. E. A. R.

[illegible]

Son

It seems a long time since we have heard from Boston; and I very much want to know how you get along in your studies, and every thing else

A Mr. Hatch of the Bangor Classical school keeps our school and a singing school at the Mills this winter; He is a very pleasant man, and is studying for the Ministry I believe. Charles has sold the oxen and the dun cow to a Mr. Mowers innkeeper near Bangor for $120 $30 down $90 — We have threshed 3 bushels of mixed oats with the horses and cattle, and lots of seed hay. It took about 47 bushels of wheat to pay the Bronner grain note and as we had but 72 [illegible] wheat is all gone but the seed already

now in regard to J. if I had the means I dont know but I should be inclined to have him go with [illegible] [illegible] necessarily [illegible] we must obey — I cant exactly see any other way but for him to come right here in the spring if he could be provided with money for board or [illegible] it seems as if it would be much better for him to stay but [illegible] and if it could be so O how hard it would be for me not to see him and know all his feelings and [illegible] his joys & sorrows O how I long to fold to my bosom the dear lovely boy. but perhaps after all tis altogether best for him to come home his mind has been so occupied he needs time for reflection and another summer's work on the farm would [illegible] his [illegible] and give him former health perhaps

If tis best for him to try to get into something and stay there for a [illegible] tis possible I should think to get a chance where he could get enough to pay his board especially as he will be a tolerable [illegible] by next spring you know that boy that came with Mrs. Peterson did & I presume he did not know half as much as J. but in the first place is it best for him to look forward to that as a permanent business I have thought that there is hardly any business that has so many temptations to lying and deceit and where it is so hard to maintain the strict integrity of the christian character let me know soon whether if J should come home he could be admitted to that school again next fall and winter if we should want to [illegible] want E. A. come here next summer I wish [illegible] please inquire &c &c that E. A. could come here and stay all summer it would be better for her health I suppose we have a good [illegible] & I think [illegible] about [illegible] I suppose she would not think it would [illegible] do [illegible] I've been reading [illegible] a [illegible] I have had, I do feel that I [illegible] and so [illegible] that I deserve nothing that is good at the hand of God I do desire to feel perfectly willing to take what he puts upon me let it be what it will

Boston March 14th 1839.

you must remember us to the folks down east

Dear Mother

We received your letter of the 28th, and also one before, that we have delayed answering, so as to have the more news to write. We have concluded to have Joseph leave school, at the end of this week (i.e. the 16th) so that he can have a week or two to look round before going home. I think we ought to be thankful that he has had this opportunity; it has furnished him with more of just the right kind of mental discipline and improvement, than we should very easily have found elsewhere. As to his entering again next fall if he should, he would have to go over the same course that he has now pleased if [illegible] hope he would not need then. I should think he had ought Lucy [illegible] studies this summer, and then work his way and get fitted for college, as well as he can, and as a way shall ~~can~~ be opened for him. He has been a good boy and acquitted himself well, but is in danger of fear of too much self satisfaction. he ought to be one of the best scholars for he is one of the oldest, and he ought to improve his time well for he has had more opportunity of learning its value than most of our Boston boys.

I feel much pleased that Isaac is making good progress in studies, and think it important that he should continue them: I think he had better have the books he needs for with them, he can, and will no doubt get along some, even without a teacher. I wish he could go to Bangor to school but his board would cost so much: I have taken up 25 dolls. of the 70, and shall have to take more to fix Joseph off, and get I's books: the rest (say 25 dolls) might I suppose be taken for his board, or we could send to Uncle Jacob, for enough to send him a quarter to pay Mrs [illegible] for I's board; if you and G. think best. She has as yet received nothing, and they are not as I know of, in immediate want of it, but whether they could wait till you could send it in honey, flour &c. is doubtful. Whatever the conclusion is, Isaac must have books and I can get them at the antique bookstore at a lower rate than I have generally at my bookstore and if second hand, lower still; but you must write very particularly the names of authors and editions, and it will be necessary for you to answer this, as quick as possible after receiving it, in order to have time before Joseph starts; we intend to have him go the first trip after we hear from you.

Gorham

I have concluded to give up my school, the first of April (i.e. in two weeks), though it has been flourishing, the prospect is not encouraging now; and I am tired of keeping it, and want a little rest from the care, and vexation of it, and have no reason to think it would pay my expenses to get a new boarding place, as I should have to do if I kept it: Almeida wants I should stay with her next summer to help her as Aunt E. is going to Warwick in a few weeks: sometime in the course of the summer or fall I shall probably, if I live, go down east, there to get my living as I can.

March 16th

Dear Mother, As to Isaac's books - I have been to the Antiquarian Bookstore and obtained the following information as to prices—
Lempriere Classical Dict. $2.00 - 2nd hand do. $1.50. Cooper's Virgil 1.62
2nd hand $1.25 - Wilson Greek Testament .62 Second hand .37
Griesbach's ditto - 1.00 & .75 different bindings - Fisk's Greek Grammar .75 2nd hand
.37 Goodrich do. .67 2nd hand .37 Greek Reader - New York Edition, with Dict. .88
second hand .42 - Boston Edition Without Dict. = .75 second hand .37
Therefore you must ascertain what books he will want and write very particularly the names, editions & authors, as a book that is not the r[illegible] won't often do much good at school. Perhaps Ann as a school-[illegible] might get them some cheaper than above enumerated.

I left school today as A. A. & J. thought it best for me to have a week or so to look round &c before I go down East. Mr Sherwin has given me a certificate as you requested.

125
37
200

Dear Brother Eliab, I must now answer your truly famous and poetic epistle as it comes next in order. I ~~could~~ am sorry for your misfortune but glad for your apparent good humour also your progress in Arithmetic.

Dear Brother Isaac, I was happy to receive a long letter from you. It contained much interesting news about the War which I had not heard before. I wish you had Mr. Stratton, our writing master, to learn you to write. Tell Lucy that I am happy to hear of her improvement in singing &c. but I had no letter from her in Mother's last.

I am contemplating visits to Bunker Hill, State house, Natural Hist. rooms &c. during the coming week. I have many things to write but forbear as I hope to see you shortly face to face. Yours, Joseph M. Metcalf

I want to hear more particularly about your affairs and about C.
that mill is a provoking affair to Charles, but good luck may come up yet,
Is his teaming profitable? I should think it ought to be, for it must be
hard work. I expect I shall find Lucy a smart, active, neat young lady,
accomplished in all the important arts pertaining to housewifery.
Ezial has done well, I should think, to get through his Arithmetic. If you want
any little things, send ~~[illegible]~~ & I will do as I can, about getting them
Ann wishes to know whether you would have her send her chairs globe, school apparatus with Joseph
or not. I am glad A has concluded to give up her school for I think there is quite
too much labor for the profit and she has concluded to stay with me a while which
I am very glad of. now I have Aunt Esther & a Miss Buswell with me and I
dont do so much as take care of my room of stirring work but I keep about house
and sew &c Lucy was quite unwell a week or two ago but now she is well and smart
Miss Buswell has been here about a week and I expect will stay till Ann comes
we want you should write also what Joseph shall go whether in Baker
or Steamboat he left school day before yesterday. 16 and now wishes to look
about town a little before he returns he has had no time as yet to do anything
but fix his books write part of your letter to Aunt E. she would be better
pleased if you should Mrs Paxters' babe is about as large round as
Lucy weighed at 3 months 16. lb its a diamond oval,

Postscript. I have just found the last letter but one which has not been
answered, containing letters from Lucy &c. but most of it is about singing school and is quite
above my comprehension — and Ann wants the room so I must close and it
I am [illegible] learning to sing. Good bye. F.

Dear Sister They insist upon my writing though I have
nothing of any consequence to write my health is much
better here than when I was in Barnard but I do not feel
as contented as I ~~[illegible]~~ could wish & indeed I do not in any
place as I do in Warwick I left Samuel Conant very low with
the lung fever I dont much expect to hear he is living I have
not heard from Warwick except by R Gale he call'd at Mr L. shop
said they were all well. Remember me to Miss Naomi Lee in
particular & to all other enquiring Friends Tell Lucy she must
write to Maria Stevens she was much pleased with her other
letter. Do write a long letter to me as soon as you can my
pen is so bad I must needs stop for I can hardly make it go
I am very glad Anne is going to leave her school on account of her
health & for Almeda's sake too. It must wear her out too fast to
keep winter & summer all the time. in haste E Stevens

Do write to Betsey as soon as you can I dont know but her
trouble is coming now

~~[illegible]~~

C. got home last night in the night & he has learned that there is a chance for Isaac (no thanks to Mr Channing except that he told him that he could [illegible] of Mr Worcester the teacher but that he ~~could~~ did not know where he [illegible] but that Mr Conver could tell him C. call'd on Mr. Worcester & he said that he might come right into his family and take care of his Cow and work in his garden and and for whatever his board was worth more he would take any products of the farm which he could make use of in his family

From X Joseph
Aunt E & Phebe
March 14 1839
Boston

Mrs Anna M. Metcalf
Milo. Me.
Miss Elizabeth C. F. Rich

[illegible] Dec 26.

Dear Mother,

I commenced my school a week ago, the former teacher went in with me the first two days, and took charge of the school, that I might more readily learn her plan, and the classification: this was very kind in her, and in some respects a great assistance to me, though it may have been some disadvantage in regard to government. There is 16 girls between the ages of 7 and 16 and 21 boys from 8 to 15; quite a formidable school I assure you requires more labour, and produces greater fatigue, than any school I was ever in, ~~this winter~~ my daily duties are; 1st call to order at 9 o'clock. 2nd read over the names of scholars to ascertain who are absent or tardy; 3rd prayers; 4th each scholar reads a verse in the testament; 5th first division of reading; 6th second do. each of which spell from their reading lesson; 7th first division in grammar recite and parse; 8th second division ditto. 9th recess. 10th third division recite Colburn 11th Second division in Colburn; 12th 1st division in Smith's Arithmetic. 13th Second in Smith's, that finishes the forenoon, which lasts till half past 12; the afternoon is occupied in Geography, which all study, and spelling, and the first class in Colburn; attend to writing twice a week Wednes. and Sat. I have given you an almost tedious account of my labours, but all this is just nothing at all, compared to the rest, viz. the management and government. Much is expected of teachers here, and I have an unusually difficult place to fill, for the former teacher has the reputation of being one of the very best here, was loved by all the scholars and you know the very same teacher would not meet with half so good acceptance under [illegible] circumstances; I am only to fill her place till spring (one term) and there is no kind of probability that I can establish a character for any thing more than a very ordinary teacher. The situation I have here is, all things considered, as good as I have any reason to expect, and would be desirable, if I could only succeed in pleasing the committee, the teachers here are thought enough of, and sufficiently noticed, their pay gives them a good living, & the social and literary as well as relig-ious privileges make it a desirable situation. I feel as if my ~~future~~ character and future success depended much upon my being considered a good teacher by the committee while

I have very little expectation of being so; old Mrs Harlow, & Mrs Walker, take a great deal of interest in my getting along well; and I am very happily situated as to boarding; there are many valuable books to read, and we have some good times singing and playing on the piano. Mrs W. is a real lively, goodnatured, shrewd, good sort of a woman, Mr W. really kind and agreeable, polite and intelligent; and Miss H. a real clever white Grand ma'am is really affectionate and kind, spends her time partly ... at her son's. Isaac is treated as far as I can see just like a boarder & has a fine chance to learn, if he would only realize his advantages and improve them: what a favourable opportunity to gain the best of all knowledge, that of ... Shaker and steadiness but I fear he thinks little of his obligations or his own real good. I expect to take charge of a class in Sabbath school next Sabbath. It does not seem much like Pine Street: I have not been to an evening meeting yet but mean to this week: I have made me a comfortable hood, one of the drawn kind, like a calash only stuffed, they are much worn here: the materials cost $1.15 I have not money to buy any shoes; I don't like it that she can not send some, but suppose she thinks it of no consequence. If I could be at home a day I could make you a good hood. — — Mr Thomas came in last Wednes. brought me books &c. and sat some minutes, talking after his manner; I thought afterwards that he wanted I should pay him, and I was sorry I didn't, for he ought I suppose to be paid and it belonged to me to pay him. It is very hard times for money all around here; people are out of business talking of going out to far west in the spring very little business done; It is a pity Charles did not take a school, unless he can find profitable work on his farm. How does Elijah get along? I hope it will be shown that he has sufficient energy and resolution to overcome any little obstacles, such as indolence, that may lie in the way of his improvement, as he has not so many facilities he must summon the more courage and ~~...~~ determination to learn. Have had four new boys one 16 years old. have punished 7 boys with a great stout ferule and get along pretty well: I have to walk most half a mile up and down hill; schoolhouse is near the railroad bridge; my school receives the older scholars of three other schools, and fits pupils for the Select School taught by Mr Littlefield, who prepares them for the High school. I visited my Mrs Dougan last week; where I took tea with 4 school teachers (two of whom board there and 1 of the students, had a pleasant time Isaac came in, after supper he and I went to the ... lecture last evening with Mrs W's ticket heard Gov. Kent. & Mrs Harlow says it will be good for ... to have me here, says he

I have purchased these of him now going over; shall pay it when I get some money, quite a supply of things very cheap and going to get a card of good stiff paper which I think he will be cheaper than to keep a supply of quills; will send these to ... ...

talks as much again since I came.

My Dear Brother Eliab

As Anne wrote to Mother, I thought I would write a few lines to you, just to fill up the Sheet.

I want that you should write to me, particularly, all about how you get along; write a good long letter once in a while. you can well enough, if you will only try. Write, whether you go to school, or not, who the Master is, and how you like &c. &c. I want to know how you prosper getting up wood, and how Poor Ferris head gets along, What Charles is doing, nowadays, &c &c.

Did not you have a nice long spell of good skating? I expect that you have worn your Skates, about all out, already! You had a nice time to cut up wood out in the woods, before the snow came, or was it a little too cold? I suppose you have pretty good sledding now.

You must be a good boy and try to study and learn as much as you

Dear Eliab,

I meant to have said more to you, while I was at home, upon the importance of forming habits of early rising, now. While I was at home, I, somehow, laid abed so myself, that I could not very well, preach about it!!! However, it is a fact, that you sleep much more than is for your good — Nothing is easier, than to get into such a habit of sleeping more than is necessary, that you 'can't help it'. You may, sometime, be in a situation, where you will want all the Time you can get. and a habit of of sleeping 2 or 3 hours more than you ought will be very inconvenient, to say the least. I have sometimes thought I should be willing to give a thousand dollars (if I had it,) if Mother had never permitted me to sleep more than about 6 hours [illegible], even if she had to whip me every day for it. I do believe that it is all in habit and bringing up about the quantity of sleep required. Young ones are in the way in the evenings & are sent off to bed, and I know, that they will not like to get up early [illegible] the way to make children get up early is to send them to bed early. I don't believe that any one, (properly educated), needs more than 6 hours sleep. The difference between 6 and 8 hours sleep in 40 years is equivalent to the addition of 10 years to a man's life [illegible]

The scholars in Isaac's school have lately organized a kind of debating club to meet once a week to declaim and debate alternately Isaac is Moderator: it will be a good thing for him, but it will prevent his attending the meeting for the exposition of Sabbath lesson which is the same eve. Isaac is going to try ~~the~~ to change the evening. How do you get along this cold weather? don't work to hard – make C. & E. wait upon you: it seems as if I did not do but little while I was at home might have done you more good and helped you along with your work I know I shan't get stays done very soon for I do not have much time

Mrs. Anna M. Metcalf.
Milo Me.

Ann & Isaac
Dec 31 [illegible] 9
Bangor

Was not you a going to send my old frock coat (mended) to Penn in the Bazaar Box.
P.S. Sam [illegible] Wish you a happy new year. Mr Walker has just brought up (from P.O.) a few [illegible] (a letter from [illegible] containing [illegible] news, 10 cash in [illegible])!

[Upside-down note at foot, partly legible:] Mr [illegible] has had a unanimous call to go to [illegible] don't know whether he will accept or not. I heard that he asked [illegible] [illegible] what he should do, and he answered "if you want to go, go," but [illegible] think he will not want to.

F. 27th, '41

Dear [illegible]

I received [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] quite a [illegible] reading [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible], which I will send with this. I do not like to [illegible] giving up his education without hearing from you and [illegible] that [illegible] [illegible] it [illegible] it. I wrote [illegible] rather a scolding [illegible] about [illegible] [illegible] taking his [illegible] [illegible] without [illegible] consulting his mother and older friends. I sent it yesterday (i.e. your letter [illegible] out,) I am glad you wrote what you did I think it will have a good effect. I suppose his sanguine [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] is ~~somewhat~~ damped: probably he will have to stay after he has left the [illegible] as I shall not have any money to send him till the first or middle of Apr, and ought not to [illegible] much then, as what I shall have left after paying board, will be all I can have till fall, and if I stay here I shall need to spend some before that time. I wrote to them that [illegible] must not come with I. if you can have Olive, I should think she had better stay till fall. As to Josiah I think it best for him to leave there if I could find a chance for him to board and go to school here. It seems to me it is his duty to study for the ministry, if he is truly a child of God: I fear he is far from feeling right, or having any adequate sense of what his duty is. I have not seen a word from [illegible] or Almeda in relation to [illegible] [illegible] the church: if he were devotedly pious I think it most [illegible] if he could succeed in finding a place here permanently while attending the Classical school. I have a plan in my head: it is this; to ask Mr. Noss [illegible], who has a large farm to carry on, to take Isaac for his work, and then have [illegible] come [illegible] Walker's. Isaac perhaps could work for him for wages during the Aug. vacation and [illegible] some [illegible] to [illegible] himself for the winter [illegible] school the fall term and take two schools in the winter and were he only pious he might enter the C. School [illegible] [illegible] spring. Josiah would have but little time to stay at home before the term commenced (about middle of Apr.) and would need to come [illegible] [illegible] as soon as he could conveniently.

I asked Mr. W. something about dividing the mill; he said if the property was such as could be divided; it could be done by petitioning the court next spring but the other party could get it put off till fall. Perhaps C. could get the time divided without dividing the mill. If he had gone off and learned the business last fall and winter according to my plan. I do'nt believe but it would have been better. Isaac studies well and I dare say gets along well in his Latin and Greek, but is apparently indifferent and more hardened than ever in respect to the concerns of his soul. It seems as if now was the very time and perhaps the only time, yet he is careless, totally unconcerned

[illegible] in [illegible] my [illegible] to want a boy but I do not think it all [illegible]. they have [illegible] no [illegible] I believe, burnt [illegible], [illegible] he would not have much to [illegible] went down from school last monday, staid and went to meeting in the morning had a pleasant time there is a great deal of attention to religion in all the churches: they are very much engaged, hold frequent and crowded meetings, many inquirers and quite a number of [illegible] here. I attend an interesting Bible class every sab. afternoon taught by Mr [illegible] a student in the Seminary, it is on the [illegible] & Hebrews. there is a very interesting state of feeling in the church, a spirit of [illegible] and humility. I have a class in Sabbath school of six or seven quite interesting girls.

I get along pretty well with my school, had one great boy expelled this week: have four weeks more to teach, don't know whether I shall stay longer or not. I have not got acquainted much yet don't go out much except to meeting, I spent an evening at Mr Cutlers, intend to call upon Mrs. Brown. Mrs. Walker and I have commenced studying together, Abercrombie's ~~Moral~~ Philosophy: recite a lesson every evening to Mr. Walker. She is a most lovely woman. — they talk of giving up housekeeping to have the house repaired but have not concluded whether they shall or not, his sister is going home soon, and Mrs. W. is going to get a girl. ~~If I [illegible]~~ I wish I had my old bonnet here, if you could send it in a band box conveniently some time I wish you would. If I stay here next summer I think it likely it will not be best to come home in vacation the travelling will be so bad the time only a fortnight, and it will be rather expensive too, when so near. I wish you would send my bonnet in a bandbox by Mr. Thomas soon, for my head does not look very smart, (I made it myself,) and the weather is so warm too, that I want the other to wear this summer. If it will come safe in the bandbox and if there is room for it I wish you would send the last Vol. of Comm. [illegible] Mr. Walker has not any ~~thing~~ thing that will help me get my bible class lesson in Hebrews. My sab-bath lesson is in Samuel and though I should like the commentary very well to get it with, I can do very well without it as the teachers have a meeting every Sabbath morn at 9 o clock for the explanation of lesson. I should think you had better write to Joseph soon for the poor fellow will hardly know what to do, he has no permission to come home, and probably is out of business there now. Had you not better write right off and direct him to come in a packet to Frankfort as soon as I send him some money, which I can do I suppose about the last of March: In the mean time I will be trying to find a place for him here. I spoke with Mrs. W. about it, she seemed to think it doubtful whether I can find a place: if he cannot find a place here it would seem to be much better for him to stay where he is, till [illegible] leaves, but it will all work for the best in some way.

Nov. 24th What weather, this season, 'tis not winter; if we have 2 or 3 more rains it will do to go to ploughing! Is not Charles sorry he did not keep school this winter, as it has turned out? I'm sure he can't do much with his team, any way. You must write a good long letter, and tell me what to do. I don't know whether I had better try and stay here studying, through the summer, or when they break up housekeeping here quit, go home, and work on the farm, till next winter. I can't even decide either, ~~whether~~ which is my duty, nor which I had rather do, if I could. What does Charles find to do, these holidays, without any snow? I'm afraid he will get cheated out of his woodpile, not to mention [illegible], which as well as the back fence it is now a good time to make! Also for Charles to study. has School done?

Bangor Sat. Feb. 22d 1840

Dear Mother

Mr. R. Cutts called here yesterday noon; and left a bundle from Milo, but our letters were not ready to send by him. Why dont you write a good long whole letter, instead of a little bit on a wee scrap of paper? And Elliah did not write a bit this time. he ought to. It would be a great advantage to him; much greater than he is aware of, or any body else, I am afraid. It would assist him both in learning to write and to compose. The pantaloons set well, I guess, much better than the other ones; they are rather long, both ways, I guess, but I think set well, I have only tried them on. I believe we have been rather negligent, along back, about writing home, but— Ann's time is pretty well u[se]d up, in her school and meetings almost every evening in the week; and I [see]m to be very busy with my lessons, [in] school and out. I study now both in the Greek Reader and Testament, recite in 2 different classes, pretty. get along pretty well in both [..]s in Cicero &c. I study hardly any thing [..]much, but Latin and Greek, besides Composition &c. I am the best Greek scholar in my class, I guess; and about equal, to any in Latin, although in that I have not had as good a chance as the others. (Cag-

I perceive by your letter that Elliah still persists in his foolish whim of calling the "White faced cow" or heifer, "Cherry"! he ought to be ashamed of himself.

We sent the letter to Joseph, last Wed. the 19th. but it contained nothing but scolding; Ann was very much provoked by his letter, (which we shall send) and wrote very [..] much so I think. (Whatever fault there is, I think is more of Jones and Almeda than him. I certainly think he had better come home, and circumstances alter cases.

[illegible] judicious [illegible]

I want to know all, how every thing gets along at home, nowadays! Write

[illegible] I thought Charles petitioned to have the Mill divided last year some time, Why did not he? What will he do with the thing when he gets it divided?

[illegible] till grass leaves, but it will, it will work for the [...] in some way [...]

25th 9 eve. Temperance Anniversary. Do you have a meeting at Milo or are you sound asleep on the temperance Question there

I have just been to an Address at Mr. Pomroy's by Mr. Cheever of the seminary and also listened to the Cheever of "Deacon Giles' distillery memory." He is a very smart man but very young

[illegible] By the way, did Mr. Chapman lecture at Milo on Temp. a while ago? He was going to.

Send back my letters, same as I do yours, wont ye?

also

Also

Bangor Feb. 25 '40

A. Smith to Isaac

Ever since we sent the letter to Boston I have regretted that it was so maledictory; that I did not somehow mitigate a little, the excess of Ann's fidget and consternation of Joseph for his letter &c. Poor Joseph will be frightened almost out of his wits and wont know any thing what to do with himself &c at all &c

This letter looks enough at least, what I have read, to scare one, any body. You must try to excuse it, if possible. I am so busy & so lazy nowadays that I cant spare time to write.

[illegible]

Dear [illegible]

[illegible] but having heard nothing from you I don't know your [illegible] and [illegible] I write to have Lucy come as soon as she can, she can board with Mr Cutler's [illegible] though the price was not mentioned. The school is just the right sort for her and I think would suit her. I have 50 scholars mostly from 10 to 15 years, get along very well so far: Lucy will need for books, Smith's & Colburn's Arithmetic, Olney's Geography and my atlas, National Reader; Grammar writing book and National Spelling book. She can trim me that old black & white straw as well as she can to wear to school and I should think her bonnet would look quite as well trimmed with the blue because there is more of it, but I don't know. She had better I guess stop at Mr Cutler's first, because her things must be left there — if Eliab comes to bring her he had better stay all night with Isaac. Isaac has sold the bottle(?) for 5,00 [illegible] 2 weeks. shall we send it or pay it to Mr Hatch? I wish you would write very particularly all about your affairs and calculations for I want to know about it. The interest in religion continues there are more than a hundred young converts and many inquirers, but Isaac is unmoved, putting religion far away from him — thinks he has not time to attend meetings much.

Mrs W. has not been at all well for a few days; her old girl that she expected has come now. Mr W. has sold his cows and wants to buy a good heifer three years old or so, when he can turn her out to grass he would pay money. Said he saw a heifer yesterday that he liked for $25 but don't want to buy just yet, perhaps C. would sell him one of his, for money, and would it not be better to sell one cheap for the sake of money?

Bangor Sun. May 3d 1848

Dear Mother

I sent a [illegible], [illegible] book, [illegible] a week ago last Friday, to carry to Milo. He said he was going up the next day, Sat. I was a little afraid afterwards that it would not arrive there safe, for I discovered that he had been drinking somewhat, at least. I have begun to have still more lately, not hearing any report from any of you. I thought Lucy would be down before now.

James F. Walker arrived home last Friday night, Mayday, from Brunswick, or Sullivan rather. He has been teaching ever since Monday after Thanksgiving. They are going to work upon the house soon, will move the barn, tear down the old kitchen, washroom and shed, make new chimneys and put up the back part of the house new &c. &c. The work in the garden is also coming on in a great hurry, on account of the rainy weather, which we have not done much only fix the Front yard and set out Trees &c. (& + two).

I shall have enough to do, and more too I guess, this summer; work to do every minute out of school and shall have hard time to get all my lessons and keep up with my class in school. I have begun to study French this term, but shall lack time, I fear. The rest of the class, even Roberts, study nothing but Latin and Greek, except perhaps History or so. However I set side of Roberts and commonly get my lessons with him. He only studies Latin and Greek. I certainly cannot get my lessons much quicker than he can, and so —

Mr. Walker wants to buy a cow before a great while; wants, he says, a very young and a very good one: will pay money cash I suppose. Now, I advise Charles, as he is in want of Money, which he needs more than the cow, to get one of his, either Black or Whiteface, to looking pretty slick, fat and nice, and give a pretty good mess of Milk, in about a month or so, and drive it down here. I will stuff up Mr. Walker and tell him how they are not very great but good and would be more profitable that a very great one that would give no more milk &c. &c. &c.

The Butter is all sold and I have the money. Sent $5,00. Small box 11½ lbs. at 14 makes $1,71 the larger 21½ lbs. (5½ hands box weight) at 15 per lb. = $3,22½. The money is here

What do you want done with the money? sent home? the boxes are

Ann & Isaac
May 3 1846
Bangor

May 21st 1840

Dear Mother

I suppose Lucy has written all the news by Mr Hatch and I did not see her letter and perhaps she'll tell the same things I should have written by him but have been so busy that I actually have not had time. You know most all my summer gowns were in pieces and needed some fixing before I could wear any of them and I have so little time to work, that I get along rather slowly. My school, though much easier and pleasanter than last winter's, yet you can well imagine that with nearly 60 scholars of every different age from 7 to 18, I have enough to employ my energies both of body and mind. Lucy is considerable assistance to me though I have no class room to have two recitations going on at once, but she spends a part of the forenoon in shewing scholars how to do sums and explaining Colburn, (I have 25 beginners in Smith's arithmetic) with which she gets along very well; she is learning fast herself and enjoys herself very much, there are about a dozen girls of her own age and older. She will get along very well for clothes, my small figured muslin fits her exactly and is long enough and will make her a good school dress. I have spent $1,08 upon her bonnet, had it bleached and pressed and altered a little making it wider at the ears and larger in the crown, trimmed with light green ribbon and cape behind, and it is an elegant looking bonnet, the trimming will be suitable for next winter too. I thought it would be the best economy to get it done, though I did not know very well how to spare money, her shoes cost $1,25. — I found a tailoress to do Isaac's frock coat she took it in on the back and sleeves and made it shorter charged ,62½; it is a genteel looking garment, just the thing he needs for next winter, but I am afraid he will have to wear it out now. He needs a thin school jacket, there are ready made linen ones which do not come very high, and Mr Walker bought at auction two pair of thin pantaloons, very low one of which Isaac can have for about 9/ and Mr [illegible] owes him nearly a dollar towards paying it. Mrs Walker wants some of your butter if you have any, was sorry they did not take that, they did not know till afterwards that some of it was here to

three days; they bought some the other day, that looked very nice; stamped in little
nice table lumps, it was so yellow tho. W. was afraid it was coloured, it is not so nice
butter as yours, they paid a shilling. If you can spare any, the sooner you can get it here
the better. I need a little money to spend very much shall have to take up the $10 I
am afraid, which is all my dependence for going to Boston next fall, as it will take all
of this term's wages I expect to pay board for myself and L. through. I guess they will
be very reasonable, L. does her own washing & ironing and make herself handy.
If you can spare as well as not butter enough to come to two or three dollars and send it
down soon, it would get a cheap jacket for Isaac and furnish me with what I want, so
that I need not take up my order; I am afraid too much of it would be spent if I have
it by me, and then the interest on it will be, 60 if I let it be, which is not to be despised,
these hard times. My stock of money now on hand is 14 cents which I am going to spend
tomorrow. I can get along without any thing more but a pair of shoes I think. I have got for my
bonnet a rich looking figured white ribbon for, 20 per yard, put it round plain
without bows, and it looks swell. Lucy's was a shilling.
I have written a long letter to Almeda and sent about a fortnight ago.

Wyman has got C handcuffed & fetterd completely — you know C bought the Mill of
Dow had a mortgage of the mill for security
Zie Dow — well he had got him all payd up but the last note of 100 dollars
now with the interest 130 perhaps when Dow sold the note and Mortgage
to Wyman without letting C know any thing about it & Wyman has
foreclosed on the mortgage. C has never yet received any thing for the use of
his half only what was layd right out in repairs & now unless C ~~can~~ can
pay that not before the time of redemption is run out Wyman will get
that property which is now worth one thousand dollars for 130 & he has no more
honour than to do it if he can he set out to petition for a division of that property
last court but found that W had got it all into his own hands he wants to
pay that & then petition next Sept if he can get it divided there is no doubt but
he could sell it for enough to pay all his debts he knows where he can
have the money but he would have to give probably 25 per cent or more percent
the Mill is legally my property now & I had rather give it to somebody else than
Wyman — that money which W paid to you belongs to Ettman & she was going to
forget to name but if you and J think it is best to make use of it to redeem
you can safely it may be you
the Mill and are willing to ~~take~~ take Charles's note instead of Ettmans — your pay
may be made perfectly secure but perhaps J would like better to have it
right there where he could get it any day

~~[illegible]~~

these feel that we become happy in exact proportion as we despair of happiness from this changing sinful world and wait & hope for it from the mercy and all sufficient love of God our Saviour

while the storm is raging about me I would not choose to stand amid mine the structure of a stable edifice but take shelter within you say you are studying the prophesys — tis well for all scripture is profitable but I am satisfied that I have more need to study the precepts of the bible I have so little time for reading and study and the more I learn of the dear Saviour and his precepts the more I see my need my "emptiness and poverty,,

Ann Bangs
May 21
1841

May 21
Bangor

Mrs. Susan M. Metcalf
Mt. Vo
Me

Oct 31st 1841

Dear Sister

I received your letter by A. Hill which though not very long contained much interesting matter. the letter from [illegible] that you spoke of I received not: A. Hill called next morning at the schoolroom for a letter but I had no time to write any, — the bundle of drawings Mr [illegible] brought up to me a few days ago, which however I shall not use. I had not much expectation that the affair would amount to any thing. I found that there were only 4 or five; and I concluded to do nothing about it, and I think it is as for the rest for I do not think I could stand the labour of it in addition to my school, which seems harder than ever this term. I have had a slight cold ever since I begun school which makes it rather harder work to speak, most every one is complaining of a cold which seems to be a kind of epidemic prevailing here; there have been many cases of fever here this fall and more deaths than usual

I am quite vexed at my stupidity, I never thought of looking into the bundle of drawings for a letter till last night a week after I received them; As to that money I do not know as I have any ~~[illegible]~~ objection to lending it to C. and J. instead of Uncle J. but if I send for any, I want to have the note settled, [illegible] I am willing C. and J should take it, to help them out of their present difficulties; but immediate notice must in that case be given to Uncle J. & James must go on to Royalston with the note and settle it up, he can without doubt find business by which he can earn some money at least enough to buy him a little stock to begin to work upon, in the meantime, when his payment becomes due, he can go to Royalston get the money and send it on, giving Uncle J. longer time to make out the rest if he wants sending or bringing it in season to James if he does not make out his payment without it — I think it would be entirely impracticable to attempt to get the money except by going after it, nor shall I consent to take up the note unless James or Charles goes after it. Uncle J. does not know that the note belongs to me, therefore I do not wish to ask for it in my name especially as I do not want it, — I should think think the best reason to give for wanting the money would be the truth. Charles's and your property is in reality so mixed that you may well say, that the mill is your concern as much as his, and therefore very natural that you should want that money to prevent the possibility of losing it. &c. & as to J. his necessity he could make known. —

As to Isaac's going to Foxcroft, it seems to me that he will find his account in going: there is no qualification it seems to me, more necessary for a young man who has his fortune to make, than an easy, gentlemanly address, and a knowledge of what belongs to good manners, and it seems to me that this essential, though trifling knowledge, can be gained (though only by mixing in society) in a short time where it is made a study, a close observation of men and manners, and habitual self command enough to ensure self possession (the very essence of easy manners) it seems to me being the principal requisites — especially I would recommend to embrace all proper opportunities to converse easily and naturally with the other sex as nothing makes one look and feel so awkward as a constraint

bashful shy manner towards the other sex and nothing shows plainer
that one is not accustomed to society; I believe this freedom and ease in the
society of the other sex more essential to a young man than to a young
lady; nothing sits so becomingly, on even a very young man, as attentions
(not particular) and regard paid to the female sex, and certainly noth-
ing helps them forward in the world more. — Ones. eve. apiety I should think Prince(?) [illegible]
would be more likely to get a school and more likely to keep it prosperous
if he should go to school a few weeks first. If he intends to persevere and
go through his studies it seems highly important that he should re-
view his Latin & Greek and get started so as to be able to pursue it this
winter while teaching. — as to a surtout I should think he might bor-
row C's till he could have one made, and C. use the cloak in which
he always looks well. — the money here is on two bills, one of 18, and the
other of 30: the 18 will be enough to pay six weeks for I. and I. the 30
remain for Eliab when his time comes, Had I better get the 18 soon?

I have 70 scholars now and some provoking ones, though the school in
general is as pleasant as usual; I get more fatigued in body and mind than
last summer or at least the school seems more tedious to me, I have half
a mind to take a vacation of next term getting some one to supply
my place and so return to it again next winter, but there would be
some disadvantages in that, — yet I do really need a longer resting
than the short vacations afford, and it would be as profitable supposing
I should take a school of ten or twelve weeks in the course of the sum-
mer, for what I earned I could save; here it takes just half my earnings to
pay my board, and the other half is less than enough to get what
the fashion, custom or even decency requires

As to the long night gowns I wonder we had not thought of them be-
fore, they are so necessary for sickness in the winter — If C. can furnish me
with <u>some</u> money for it I will get and make up some, for I have time
evenings, which I have spent almost altogether in Mrs. Walker's room
he reads aloud and commonly makes rather a long evening — he is now
reading 'A new home or who'll follow' by Mrs. Clavers a fashionable & first
rate Broadway lady whose husband became proprietor of a town in
Michigan and went from the city of New York to reside there, she accommoda-
ted herself to all the hardships and inconveniences of her new home to which she
carried six small children, and her book is full of common sense and useful
hints and interesting sketches. — He has been reading memoires of Sully, in two large volumes
a book written about 250 years ago, in the time of Henry 4th of France
it is as interesting as a novel, is filled with just and discriminating ideas of
human affairs shows a great knowledge of human nature and is strictly
authentic account of a truly great man, as well as of the affairs of France and other nations at that time & an impartial view of them. Mr. W. has also read aloud one
of James's historical novel 'Richlieu' — so you see I read and work too.

I am likely to live very retired scarcely ever going out, and seldom seeing any
company here but so much the better I shall be likely to get some work done
and be improving my mind all the while. If Mr & Mrs. W. do not move
away this fall, they will be likely to stay here all winter and if they do I think
I shall too, there would be so much difficulty in finding a really agreeable
boarding place.

I have just had a short call from Ellen Lee she told me that Isaac had
about given up going to Foxcroft. I am afraid it is not a good conclusion if he can
succeed in getting schools and get a parcel of money to spend next spring at school it
might be better than to go this fall, if he could earn money enough this winter
to go three months next spring, and then earn enough next summer on
[illegible] farm or somewhere else, to go three months next fall, he might
be getting along some in his studies. If he does not go to school this fall I should
think his plan of going down east where J. Walker [illegible], was a good one, or
else among the islands down this river, or in the provinces, where schools
are generally poor

Mrs Rogers has engaged three new boarders,—daughters of
Dr. Bartlett—the eldest a young lady who gives instructions on the
piano, at her own rooms, by which she earns 80 dolls per quarter,—the
two younger are misses attending school - they have a parlour
and sleeping rooms, and pay six dollars one of them will
ladys with shes — they attend the unitarian meeting. — it

Mr W. has nearly made up his mind to remove to Mon-
roe a village 16 miles from here on the road to Belfast and
8 from the latter place — he has flattering prospects there of a good
stand for business, and the probability is, they will remove there
in the course of the winter, and I shall find a boarding place near
my school, it would save my clothes and perhaps my health
and I might be more pleasantly situated too. If I do change,
I mean to try to get boarded at Robert Dutton's a new mar-
ried couple his wife was Julia Godfrey. they live in the same
house that Mr Cutler did, only they occupy Mrs Chase's
part too. his mother lives with them. that would be in every
respect an eligible place. if they will take me, in that case I [illegible]
go into company much more than now, shall need ~~[illegible]~~ a new dress
for which purpose I shall want ~~to~~ use two or three of the 18 when I get
which I will return when I can do so - my week's vacation comes about
the third week in Dec. a fortnight after Thanksgiving and if it should be good sleighing then
and if it should be convenient then I should like very much to go home, I could dismiss my sch
the Friday eve, proceeding and start Sat. and return the next Sat. but we can see about it when
the time comes. Lucy I will relate a few particulars of the school for your special use, in spite of my fixed
resolution to have no more scholars than one to each desk, - I had a class of seven sent in from Miss
Thurston's so far advanced that I could not well refuse to take them — one of them is named
Bridget Mulligan a beautiful cognomen which the few first times it was called over, invariably
brought a smile and stare into the faces of the scholars. — I have divided my scholars into smaller
classes this term and I like the arrangement. I have 4 classes in each different study and they recite
standing on the platform in front of the table while I stand at the back side of the room.
another great improvement has been made, on each side wall row, the desks
are screwed down to the floor — chairs are on the back side and in the middle, and
the two inner rows have the recitation seats [illegible] on each side, raised higher and nailed
to the floor; this saves the noise of moving stools, which you know was a great annoyance.
I have frequent applications to take scholars but I refuse all except my old scholars, C. Wooderson
attends now. Elizabeth Palmer is to build the fire all winter in consideration of a new Geog.
which I got for her, from the committee; I have only one kind of Geography in school — Smith's
A. Pearce, A. Burton, M. A. Lambert, A. Hawkins are very good scholars, learn fast. Mr E. Cobb Mends constant
by this term — I have bought and made this black capi for Lucy instead of a net
The whole cost 33 I am going to have one like it only not quite so gay. the whole
of the white lace and press crape was 28. I have cut out the cape the same
pattern that Lucy's is, I am a little afraid you will have a smart [illegible]
for two, as you will want it to go behind too, Almeda ought to have just such
piece [illegible]; I have bought some cotton cloth [illegible]
which I will make up if I can before they go — the seven shirts have [illegible]
ready to be sent this some time, Elihu's are cut out and I will send them [illegible]
making, as I suppose he will not need them very much at present.

[illegible] that money it is put on order for six months then renewed, and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] other times and when I mentioned Mr. W. the 18 [illegible] I suppose [illegible] neglected to put it on immediately and [illegible] [illegible] the other [illegible] at that time and it is not got six months, he says it will be [illegible] in two or three weeks

The more I think of it the more inclined I am to have James go on to Royalston and ~~get~~ that note settled and I should think that the sooner [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the sooner he starts the better. I should like that silk quilted lining if it is not too much defaced and those light stockings coloured black. I have bought a black and white straw bonnet instead of a hood which will do for summer and winter it cost 4,12½.

Mrs. Anna M. Melcher [illegible]
Mil[illegible] Me.

Ann Oct. 8/18th
1841
Bangor

Dear Mother   Jan. 30th 1842

I acknowledge I have not done very well about writing since I came back, not from want of ~~any thing~~ enough to say, but because no time seems to come right to set about writing unless I take it Sunday evening as I am now doing. You will wonder what I do with my long evenings and I will endeavour to show you how I am as positively engaged then as in the day well, Mr. Walker has constantly taken books from the library, — interesting ones too, to read aloud, he and I alternately, he the beginning of the evening, and I the latter part, with my knitting in hand, now if I spend an evening in any other way I lose part of the story, moral or whatever; I enjoy these evenings so much that I have become quite a recluse in respect to society, having been out but two evenings since my return both upon particular invitations, at one of the places I met with W. Dennett, the other time I visited Caroline Prescott's mother she is a grand good scholar this term. Mond. eve. I received your letter and one from Jo at the same time, and was very glad of them. I pity poor Jo, I am much concerned for fear that he will fail, I have been thinking of writing and do mean to, though, I am some afraid I shan't get it there before he gets through, I want to give him some advice but suppose he has a plenty

I feel greatly relieved that C. has settled with Wyman even if not to the best advantage. I hope Isaac will get the other school for a little more needful, will be very convenient, and there never was a scarcer time for money it is said to be the same at New York and Boston as here; I have got none yet — have literally been without a farthing since I spent the .25 that Lucy gave to get thread &c. my only gloves are a pair that I carried from home — too small for you — for silk gloves, I have really become very economical — query — do I deserve credit for it? Mr W. has tried to take up the order without success, but thinks I can have it before long now, my board money has been wanted and wanted, without my being able to pay, so that I could not have changed my lodgings if I had ~~then~~ wished Mr & Mrs. W. have concluded to stay here till their year is out, when they will either go out of town or change boarding place. — I feel rather undecided what course to take, if I write that I will go to Houlton if they want me, I don't know but I shall be obliged to give up my chance here upon uncertaintances, for, it is not at all probable that I can ascertain what the chance would be at Houlton before time to commence here; so that if I engage to go there upon a certain compensation, I should have to give up the chance here, whether I had that or not sometimes I get so wearied ~~of~~ with my never ceasing 'schooling' of my flirting & giddy, restive and not very limited flock, that I think I don't care a fig, if I do give up the chance; ~~but~~ there are many agreables in living here which I would not have in keeping school from place to place but perhaps counterbalanced by greater freedom from harassing and unquieting cares in the country. I have heard an opinion partly expressed by Mr. Walker and Wakefield talking together, that the city would not support two schools in some sense high taught by males, much longer, and and that perhaps a school something like Mr. Littlefield's might be taught by a female which would save much expense, but supposing this, whether I could get it even if I wanted it would be a quest[ion]

To the Superintending School Committee of the City of Bangor.

The Instructor of the School

informs said Committee, that the children belonging to said School, whose names are below stated, have not been furnished with suitable books; that notice in writing or personal notice has been given to their parents, masters or guardians and that they have neglected or refused to furnish the same, to wit:

NAMES OF PARENTS, &c.	NAMES OF CHILDREN.	BOOKS REQUIRED.

Two or three weeks ago, his highness Mr Littlefield ~~[illegible]~~ conceived it his duty to leave his own special charge, and visit my humble scene of labours, he came in, a quarter before eleven at my request heard a class parse, then during the space of one hour by my watch, he lectured my scholars using great plainness of speech reminding them of all their misdoings both actual and possible, telling them over and over, what they must do in order to get into Mr Littlefield's school, inviting them to come in, a class at a time, into his school, to see how orderly, studious, still, and well arranged it was; my scholars were very still, and perfectly attentive though his speech was so long; when he returned to his own school he told them he had been absent so long because he was needed more than with them, that he found my scholars behaving rather badly, so he stayed to talk to them; this I heard from Mary Bartlett our boarder and his scholar 16 years old; she said his school carried on, bad enough while he was gone Loraine M. getting into the desk and mimicking him &c. I can't conceive why he should say so, and to his scholars too, except his notorious habit and policy of carrying it in the light to his scholars, that their school is considerably better in every respect than any other. I thought his conduct almost an imposition — Mr Walker laughed about it said he should like to quiz him a little in the paper, for leaving his own school to inspect and lecture others, proposing his own as a model &c. ——

He teaches a class in French this term though it is not according to the wishes of the committee to have any but common branches taught there, he addresses this class on all occasions as Mademoiselle this, or that — bah! ——

Tues. 1st I will relate a little school experience for Lucy's gratification, last Friday night I kept Susan Bounds after school to talk to her for disorderly conduct after reasonings, threatenings &c. I dismissed her; — in going out, she muttered something which I did not hear, I called her back, but she marched straight on, I sent a girl to speak to her to come back, she said she did not care what Miss Rich said, and went on; — the next morning I called her up in order to punish her when she said, Mother told me if you punished me, to bring ~~my~~ books home, I told her to take her books home and not come any more, and wrote a note to her mother that I should consider her no longer a member of the school which I sent by another girl; Monday noon, Susan came again accompanied by her grown up sister who said she was sorry Susan had behaved so bad and wanted me to take her again; I told her that if her mother really sent the word that was brought me, I should decline receiving her again, for that I considered myself the proper judge whether one of my scholars deserved punishment, and that her mother had shown such a want of confidence in me that I thought she would be better satisfied to send her to some other school, she rather disclaimed her mother's having sent me the word, and urged me to

take her. I then turned to Susan and asked her if she was sensible she had done wrong and deserved punishment and felt sorry for it she said she did not know, I then told her she might go home for I should not receive her without suitable submission: she came back again before long humble enough and I punished her and let her take her seat; I have 77 scholars in all, 67 present yesterday; begin to feel anxious and concerned about examination which I fear will not go off well, — I have had pleasant weather and walking almost all winter, two days it has rained so violently that I have stayed at home and had the day to myself; — I am working a small collar chiefly evenings am sorry about the ruffle as I have wanted it to wear positively it is not among my things; so it must be there, probably in the top drawer; — Abby Hill took her books away about a fortnight since to attend Mr. Converse's school the scholars say; she said nothing to me about it, I don't know for what reason, but probably because of the distance: I have called there once since Mrs. Hill came; I believe she expect to return soon and I will find out and write by her. — I wish I had plenty of money, a large store of dry goods is to be sold off at auction commencing to day they will without doubt go low because of the scarcity of money: I wish very much that you could have a black alepine or Alpacca dress, the most suitable and useful of all others for you: I want to get some stout cheap calico for you and I a loose dress like Lucy's and I wish to get for myself a nice French calico, and such a one would not come amiss to Lucy I presume — cotton cloth for sheets will probably go low, but I have no prospect of getting any money before the things are sold. — Tell Isaac that Frederic Bartlett is boarding a week with us on business from Holden where he has a clerkship under another of the officers of army he is a dashing spring who stays out till one or two o'clock every night with his lady-love his brother who pronounced the oration at the Juvenile celebration the fourth of July, has an appointment in the navy and has gone to the Mediterranean ——— I received a [illegible] letter from E. Treat last week which must answer by Mr Rogers who goes next week to the wedding of her brother with her adopted sister I shall write my proposals about the school to her then. — Why does Almeda never a word to tell how things are prospering with her, butter is about, 20 I guess will not be much higher, poultry is high and scarce just now: — Is Lucy Almeda going to obtain her book when I come? I do hope hope they will take more pains to learn her for she is old enough and situated as she is, she is likely to know little besides what her parents teach her in any thing. ———

I have nearly filled my sheet but I believe there is hardly any thing in it worth reading. — Is little baby well and as interesting as ever I long to see the little fellow, has his pate got well? how do you get along without a girl, — Is C. going to build a house next summer I hope he will begin, I should think he and James and all the boys might employ themselves about it, till time to work at farming, & accomplish considerable

BOOKS REQUIRED.	NAMES OF CHILDREN.	NAMES OF PARENTS, &c.

parents, masters or guardians and that they have neglected or refused to furnish the same, to wit:
not been furnished with suitable books; that notice in writing or personal notice has been given to their
informs said Committee, that the children belonging to said School, whose names are below stated, have

The Instructor of the School

To the Superintending School Committee of the City of Bangor.

Ann
Jany 30th /42
Bangor

Ann Jan. 30th
1842

Single

Mrs. Anna M. Metcalf
Milo. Me.

Dear Mother

I think you may rest easy about Isaac, so far as respects danger from temptations from wicked men, he is in that state of mind now that is in no danger of being led away by outward temptations; I feel anxious about but mingled with great hope; his interest has not abated, he expressed to me (though I know but little of his feelings — that he was resolved to seek religion at all events and not let it go, — this was a week ago. he went to inquiry meeting last night — I hope. I cannot but think that there is a good work begun in him — the head man is pious, Isaac said he had talked with him some, on religion he evidently is not ashamed or backward to have his feelings known; O if Isaac Eliab and especially C. would now be brought in, what a happy family we should be, what blessing could we have in comparison with it: it seems to me there would be no hope of C. if he should now refuse the offers of mercy. O that we might have the prayer of faith given us, that which is prompted by the Spirit of God and will certainly be answered, but we must pray in submission as well as faith.

Bonnets like this are worn for handsome bonnets by genteel people, and the ribbon is almost as wide as any worn now, and is the prettiest I ever saw for, 12½ 2¼ yds to trim it, just gather or plait ¾ yd of it, into a frill behind, and put the rest plain over the bonnet. The purple calico is a better piece than mine and cost, 12½ The dark, does not exactly suit me but it is the best I was able to find.

Shoes	$1.00	band box	,33
Calico	1,00		4,61
do	1,33		$4,94
bonnet	1,00		
ribbon	,28		
	$4,61		

[illegible]	25
5 [illegible] Rice	2.00
2 [illegible]	[illegible]
1 [illegible]	.36
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	1 05
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
1 [illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	71
16 [illegible]	.60
Crockery	1,05
[illegible]	220
35 / 44 6 [illegible]	[illegible]
Cotton [illegible]	[illegible] 70
Cream	12
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
2 [illegible]	[illegible]
2 lb Coffee	[illegible]
	[illegible]
	20.0[illegible]

Ann May 9th 1842
Bangor

To all the folks whom it may concern,

[illegible] July [illegible] 4th 184[illegible]

Almeida I have thought considerable about your Lucy's state [illegible] since I came from [illegible] and I wonder you do not all of you feel more the importance of doing something about it. [illegible] to have her a poor, sickly, [illegible], [illegible] invalid all her days. situated as you are, you will [illegible] need the [illegible] add a daughter. I take it the best remedy is a great deal of free, healthy physical exercise, accompanied by a pleased interested state of mind. I would have her play with other children [illegible] as practicable, and ride whenever convenient and especially learn to jump the rope, which you [illegible] exercises the shoulders and expands the chest. I should think if James [illegible] here with his wool, he might, as he [illegible] large quantity, take in both the children of a Saturday morning early, and carry me back with them (have a cricket in the wagon) then Lucy or Eliab could come back with me Monday morning and they would [illegible] in my [illegible] do the more work in a week. It seems to me that all of you are too much absorbed with [illegible] and contracting sort of anxiety to gain the means of living and do not think enough [illegible] many [illegible], [illegible] which [illegible] leads most certainly by the laws of the human mind to greater vigor and exertion. How rarely is there any thing among you to call forth the pleasurable emotions of gratitude to God in the enjoyments of this passing life, or of kindly feelings of enjoyments in each other, to counteract the many rough, grating, discordant feelings that are daily brought into exercise whose effect is, to blunt the [illegible] feelings of the soul and produce [illegible] selfishness.

A want of interest in, and communication with others around us is it seems to me, a prominent fault in us as a family, and has had its legitimate effect upon our own interests and circumstances, as well as [illegible] minds and characters. We are looked upon rather with suspicion than interest by others, and lose how many opportunities of gaining advantages. [illegible] differently should I have been situated now, in all human probability had I improved all the opportunities I have neglected of gaining benefits. The bump of caution is too largely developed in all of us from oldest to youngest, we cannot run any risk, or take any step out of the common course, for fear of something, we know not what. I expect Ralph's excellent plan of going to the Aroostook and taking a school there will fail from want of courage or from being too late about it. Young Carpenter has lately returned from [illegible] where he has been teaching nine months at 25 dolls per month; ~~perhaps if Isaac~~ I heard him say that they wanted him again, but he was not going; perhaps if Isaac had courage enough to take the necessary [illegible] he might get such an opportunity, they have a school fund and do not employ female teachers. Had you not better fix Eliab out to commence the term, and let him have one whole quarter's [illegible] at once, which he has never yet had any where, and study Algebra and Surveying. If Joseph could make himself thoroughly acquainted with surveying and go up to Aroostook he might perhaps do well. I have not said any thing about this school for I. and I suspect there will be two or three applicants here. I wish Charles instead of painting his house, would lay out the money in preparing to go to housekeeping, get two rooms done, marry Lucy Hale, or some other clever girl before thanksgiving, and live there this winter all alone with his wife, while he is finishing off the rest, and let the painting go till another year.

And now to the business part of my letter which is to propose for the consideration of all of you a plan which popped into my head a day or two since and has rested there ever since. Miss Caverno the famous new teacher, will have six or eight scholars in music: she has a piano, and will board next house to me where she has a room to receive her music scholars separate from the school, or school hours, at $. 5.00 each per quarter. Now I could probably take lessons of her at most any hour I should choose, and by paying a trifle more, could practise upon her piano and [illegible] in [illegible] four weeks without any expense of board, then by staying three or four weeks longer I could take two quarters lessons (24), practising most all the time when my school was finished, and with an expense not exceeding $10 could get a quarter's instruction which is the common price of tuition only: then if I could procure Mrs. Wilder's instrument from Williamsburgh at a reasonable hire, I could practise and practise all the next long winter: the music would be expensive, if I had it to buy, but I could undoubtedly borrow a music book of [illegible]. Walker, that would answer every purpose and my Kingsley's choir too, is set to the piano. I know it would have been better for me to have spent two hundred dollars ten years ago to learn it, but though I have had several good chances to learn music during that time, I have had none to do it with so little expense, or when I had so much time to practise which is I suppose the greatest part; it is true, beginning so late would be a great disadvantage, but it is frequently done, Miss Ellis teacher of Bluehill academy older than I am, boarded at Mrs. Sylvester's last summer and took lessons on purpose to teach it, and I suppose if one is a correct player, they can teach without being very accomplished at it, besides with pains and perseverance I might make considerable proficiency, and I [illegible] might take a school next winter like the one Lydia Ann is keeping, perhaps, and then if we go west I might stop at [illegible] a while and perfect myself under Isaac's Metcalf's tuition, or of some first rate man in Boston enough for a name and then I think that either north, south, east or west, I could find a situation to get my living better than to take my chance at common schools with all the little country girls about here, where the more ignorant and poorer teacher is likely to be [illegible] [illegible] spend four months of faithful laborious toil, and gain $1.4 Miss C. in three months easy, and honourable [illegible] receives more than twice that sum. I have spent considerable time and expense to get ~~an education~~ fitted to [illegible] and have laboured faithfully almost seven years, and it seems as if I ought to be able to do something better than a mere "tyrant of childhood." If I could in any other way than teaching, gain a comfortable living I would gladly give up the struggle on the arena of public life and according to Isaac's idea settle down in "quiet" but I have not any near friend [illegible] could afford to give me a living, for all I could do for them, to say nothing of laying by for old age.— Now I want you all to take this subject into consideration, and help me determine whether I had best make the effort; the very first step would be to ascertain whether I could obtain an instrument from Williamsburgh as if I could not the plan of course would fail: Lucy might go to Ellen's and get her to go up to Williamsburgh and engage it, if it is best [illegible] it, [illegible] daughters are going to learn and if their father is not able to purchase a piano she would perhaps try to get Mrs. Wilder's. Now it seems to me that if I could take a quarter's lessons, and have the use of a piano for $. 20 it would be worth while to do it; but must be decided soon, as the school begins in a fortnight after this week and before I could make any bargain with Miss Caverno, it would be necessary to know ~~whether~~ that I could have a piano to practise upon, after I got home, as without that, it would do no good to take the lessons. The more I think of the plan, the more it seems to me worth while do it, if I can get a piano, and if I ~~do~~ any thing about it that must decide the question. What do you say, and what will you ~~do~~ about it?

Cu[illegible]

Ann
Aug 24/43
Foxcroft

Mrs. Anna M. Metcalf.
Milo Me.

Milo Apr. 1st 1844.

Dear Mother

Here I am at home in the little north room, and here I expect to stay for the present. I arrived at Bangor, Tues. eve. March 19th -- staid at Mr. Pomroy's a little more than a week, - enjoyed myself much, came up with Mr. Cutts Capt Hunt.

I found the schools in Bangor, begun when I got there, so I said nothing about it nor told any one that I thought any of taking one this spring. Mr Walker and Wakefield are on the new committee chosen after I got there. I found Charles keeping house all alone and getting along very well. Lucy had been gone four weeks I suppose they have written you from Foxcroft, so you know more about them than I do.

I had a comfortable passage, only I was very sea-sick and have hardly got over it yet. it cost me six dolls. and half to get to Bangor, to get to Milo $8,50 including all expenses. If I had known about the schools, and how comfortably Charles was getting along, I would have staid two or three weeks longer in Boston. I hope you will not be in a hurry to start, but stay till the 1st of May, at least, for it will be less expensive then, and the travelling will be very bad ~~till~~ till about that time. I wish you would buy and bring a parcel of palm leaves ready split, for I am convinced we could make something by braiding them to sell them one at a time round here. Almeida sent a letter to me while I was on the way home, sending for some things, which of course will be in Boston P. O. but which you had better not take out, but let it go on to Washington as there is nothing of any consequence in it, Almeida can send her directions in this.

When you first get to Boston we want you should fix upon a time to start for down east, you can see by the papers the days the steamboat runs, and write to us when you are going to start, and Charles will be at Bangor - he wants to go down when it comes good wheeling, - if you write some little time before you start, we can if we want to, send to you to get any thing we think of, -- either in Boston or Bangor.

Mrs. Child when she learned my loss, presented me with $5,00 which was very kind in her.

Dear Mother
I have just been washing Lydia Ann helping a very large wash am just too tired to write but it is going to send it to night so I'll just say that we are getting along well my health as usual is pretty good if I dont have too much work to do I wrote to ct to get me some calico but now I shall not be able to wait till you come for all that I want but should be glad to have you get me a cheap dress ~~as~~ 8 yds good as you can for 19 or yard I should like a putty bag ~~which~~ can be obtained at the paint shops and if you can find anywhere in your perigrinations some fresh new coriander and saffron seeds I should be very glad of some give my love to my friends in that country also in Boston the pain in my stomach is too severe for me to say much now so I'll let Ann finish the letter

If Eliab comes home, I should think it would do for him to stay one night at Mrs. N. Harlow's, it would be better than for him to ~~stay at~~ go to Mr. Pomroy's I was there so long.

Lydia Ann is at work for Almeida this week is going to help me, next, week, to wash &c. there has been none done, for four weeks or more, though things are in better order than I should expect, and with her help a few days I shall get them in good trim.

Dear Mother I dont know but Lucy wrote you that I have sold the black horse & sleigh to Gilman for 100, days work on the house he has worked about 40 and is going to work about 30 more in the spring, commence about the 1st of May and the rest next winter, Jack Frost has lifted so hard at the house that I cannot put the work together till the groun settles so that I shall not be able to get it plastered till just before haying I think unles Eliab can find a pretty good chance in Boston or somewhere else that he had better come home for there will necessarily

be considerable to do this summer ~~as~~ the Town have raised 550, dolls to build this River road this summer and I have got to superintend the work and that will hinder me some Mr Keen has sold his Farm down river and bought the Norcross place in Atkinson where we got logs, and has moved over there.

The man that has bought Mr Keens place wants to come into our old house and take a part of the farm for sake of cutting the tue hay but I dont whether I shall let it to him or not

Perhaps you had better see about that money that I am oweing to Aunt Esther. I suppose there was some left in Uncle Josephs hands when we got the wagon that he probably paid to Aunt Esther and I do not recollect exactly how much there is due perhaps you had better see how much there is and if she does not want it at present, let stand I shall probably go to Warwick sometime myself if I live long enough

You had better stay till you wear your welcome allmost out for you know the going will not be good here so early in the season as there. Ann and I can get along quite comfortably I shall have no hired help for a Month or more

I want very much to see all those Uncles & Aunts & cousins I suppose the young folks have all grown out of my knowledge and I have moved out of theirs

C.W.P.

Ans Apr 1st
1844

Milo

forwarded
from Warwick Ms
April 12th

way 19¾
10
29¾

Mrs Anna M. Metcalf
Boston ~~Warwick~~ Mass.

~~To the care of Joseph Stevens Esq~~

Bangor Jan. 19th 184[illegible]

Dear Mother

We have been intending to send the quilt [illegible] by [illegible] post but could not get time. I had some serious idea of getting in with Curtis Alford more and spending a week at Milo as I have a vacation this week, because 16 of my scholars are sick with the measles, so I thought I would have a vacation now and not have any other till next spring: I should have saved a week's board so that ~~the~~ the expense of the journey would be only ,50 ~~[illegible]~~ but by staying I can get my black [illegible] fixed over, and various other necessary things, that it is difficult to do while teaching, and as the travelling is so bad too, I concluded to deny myself the pleasure of going though I wanted to prodigiously. Joseph has made the bargain with Lyford & Gow to build schoolhouse for $150 to begin this week; to pay $[illegible]0 dolls 1st Jan. 35 more when it is all completed, then quarterly payments of $30 and 35 dolls. We are snugly settled at Mr Sylvester's, I have a pleasant chamber to myself and J. with another young man have a good one adjoining; this young man Mr. Webb is about 19, not quite or less, smart, intelligent and clever; in every sense of the term, from Brunswick, his mother keeps College boarders; in a store, is dressed twice as well as J. & is some accustomed to society, and will I think be a benefit to Joseph: this is just the place for him for he will be made social at any rate. The oldest daughter at home is 15, a smart girl, very remembering Harriet Sylvester, she is in the high school and sometimes gets J. to help her do her sums; the two younger girls go to me, one 11 the other six. Joseph's health is much better but will improve much more if I can only get him to take more exercise. I talked about buying a battledore & shuttlecock to play, which furnishes some of the best exercise

Jane quite lame to day from playing battledore it requires such quick and constant motion

I intended to buy one instead of Lyceum ticket, but before I got ready to buy it; Mr. Weld bought one, & we have fine times playing: Mrs. Walker had one, & she & I used to play, and Mr. Weld has one too, so we can make it go pretty brisk. Joseph is beginning to learn the like too much, I know by his actions. Eliab has called over one evening: I have called upon Mrs. Brown since I left; thanked her for her kindness & mean to make J. go soon with me and spend an evening. Joseph can sit in ~~their~~ Mr Sylvester's pew which is a pleasant one, on the broad aisle, four from the pulpit. I have ripped my cloak to pieces, sponged and pressed it & it looks vastly better am going to have a plain waist behind, skirt cut off: the front plaited into a yoke; shall get new trimming for cape; and will send my fringe for Lucy. I have engaged a bonnet (velvet) I am sure it is not best to get along without, as my old florence will not go, (only) dress dark winter bonnets of silk or velvet are worn altogether. I must have a muff too; I think not best to borrow yours, for you need it I must have one sometime, and can get it at place I am acquainted, and pay when I receive bills: after fixing cloak and getting muff & bonnet, I shall need no more expense for clothes till next summer; my new 25 de laine is a rich looking one, fits elegantly, & will do to wear summer ~~and~~ fall & Spring, & my handsome last winter's plaid, will serve every other occasion. My velvet lining seems too handsome for a hacking. & so I have concluded to send it for Lucy, instead of buying any. Mary Barnes gave me an old kid doll without a head for Lizzy. I will send it up when convenient, if Lucy will fix it up for her. Mary's recollections of Milo are as lively and interested as ever: she means to write but puts it off. Mrs. P. & I have not really settled yet; she says she shall charge the same for my board that you did for Mary, & was there eight or nine weeks. If I could see you I would tell you a strange and funny story in which Mr. Walker is one of the

chief character & the whole would be quite a drama: but can't be written very safely and properly. Mary Quincy is expected in a week. If you conclude you had rather have a mouse de laine than your gingham, I should like to change. it would make a pretty winter dress for me being so dark, but would not be a pretty summer dress here. I begin to need my stockings. I had two or three pairs of white ones at home (one pair unfinished) which I wish were dyed blue ~~and~~ purple, and sent as soon as convenient, also one of my long nightgowns, Questions to Emerson's Watts and one or two of my common white nightcaps. if I had my sheets of Bristol board I should be glad because I wish to copy some pretty pieces from one of my scholar's drawing books lately purchased, but if you think they cannot be sent without inconvenience it is no great consequence. Mrs. Sylvester permits me to have a dressmaker come here & she is coming tomorrow to get my cloak together. I shall [illegible] a fire in my chamber and work with her. The Sylvesters very much want a good girl — will give 1,25 per week for a capable ~~—~~ & faithful one I wish Lucy would make some enquiry. perhaps Mrs. Henry Sargent knows some one, that would do. I have heard nothing from Isaac since I have been here except one letter to Phebe. I wrote him just after I came last Aug. & he has not written to me since. I mean to write to him soon as I can, but think he ought to write to me. I like C's plan of schoolhouse much. a passage between the walls & walk would be very convenient but don't know as so much room. It is not a favourable season to build if there was any alternative. I have no recollection of Charles' clock; it is possible it was put in the waggon when we came down don't recollect of taking it any time when Mary & I went together I want Lucy

Should write me as long a letter as I wrote the last summer & tell all the details. I wish, Martha, you would give yourself time to write me a good letter it would do us all good. Mary wants you would answer hers, & perhaps you might do her good by writing her a letter of advice &c. she is much taken up with [illegible] vanities

Mrs. A. M. Metcalf,
Hilo
[illegible]

Anna
Nov. 17 – 1845
Bangor

[illegible] the [illegible] still [illegible] accustomed to it. It do good to learn to knit it; it gives suppleness to the fingers. the cost is about ,75.

Dear Mother

I send this Proverbial Philosophy & Lucy says keep it in a drawer only when you are using it & if Charles wants to read it make him [illegible] time so as not to get the edges soiled &c.

I send up a pair of shoes that I bought of Jos. with the determination of wearing them to keep my feet warm but they made my heels so sore that I was obliged to put them aside, I have since got a pair of boots that are much better because they keep the ankles dry; if you can wear them do so if not send them back & Jos. will put them in his store again.

I am quite well & get along finely, it is such very bad walking that Lucy nor I could not well go down town to get the things but I can send you some thread & will try to impress it upon C. to buy a Comb.

I think you ought to make James work some or he will get into bad habits and do take comfort yourself & not work hard. Mrs. H Sargent would be glad to help you & easy pay, especially James' clothes. You will have enough to do to

of [illegible]

prepare & wait upon your company
Cattle &c. — I send you a pen for your own
use so you can have no excuse for not writing
oftener. — ———

E. Abiel Sawyer
1846

Ann Feb. 13, 1846
Bangor

Feb 13th & 14 1846

Dear Mother and folks

I have just finished a long letter to Almeda and can only have time now to scribble a few words, but soon I mean to write a detailed account of myself; in the mean time I wish you would write to me and tell me all the daily occurrence give me an account of all your quilts and mats, the progress of children in work and study, the doings and sayings of the neighborhood and town &c. I heard of Lucy being at E. Greenleaf's before she wrote; C. Webster who is soon to be married to Thomas Smith was visiting at Sebec, though she did not attend the party; W. Lowry's wife is her cousin has been a famous dressmaker &c.

I have been to three parties this winter where there was playing goose &c and Waltzing but I dislike it think Christians cannot join in it much without injury to the cause of religion: in a company of professors only there would be no harm in a little of it for exercise and variety, but it sometimes has a beneficial effect upon mind and body but if Christians join in plays it is said, and with reason, why not dance it is more refined, less noisy &c. and dancing being an amusement peculiarly appropriated to the world, ~~and~~ if professors join in it they lower their own influence and character in the eyes of the world, and open a wide door of evil: I think it your duty Lucy to present some reasons and consequences of such things to M. Hill & others if you have opportunity

arrangements with Mrs. S. to pay your board so as not
to feel under obligation. if you come you had better soon becau[se]

I met a pleasant little company at Mr. Stanwood's the other evening: the gentlemen were all students except Weld (Joseph was invited but did not go.) we had pleasant and instructive conversation, and we had one short play of consequences. A young lady went round with pencil and paper, requested each gentleman to write the name of a lady or a speech addressed to a lady & each lady to write a gentleman's name, place of residence, and answer to such speech, they were then put together and read over so as to be very amusing. Afterwards we each in succession wrote two lines of poetry, the last line of one to rhyme with the first line of the next that too proved quite amusing specimens 'trim my muse and wipe your nose' another 'I've got a fishbone in my throat'.

~~Carry~~ Caroline Weld spent a fortnight at Mrs. S. and is a delightful girl. her mother has returned to Brunswick & wants Grace to board with her, but I suppose she cannot afford it. her cloak and bonnet happen to be of exactly the same colour as mine so as we were each going to have a new dress we got some alike and had them made while she was there and wore them two or three times together. the colours are purple, light and dark brown shaded, and white, the stripes run around, which is fashionable. ~~all~~ it was de laine at 30 per yd.

Weld is a first rate fellow, by no means equal to Joseph [in] mental powers or acquirements but his easy, polished manners, self-possession and ready knowledge & practice of all the little forms and etiquette of society is likely to

Bangor Jul. 6th 1846.

Dear Mother

I had written a bit of a letter to send by C. but had it at the schoolroom, so when he called in the eve. ~~I had~~ nothing written to give him. I fear Mrs. [illegible] [illegible]

The above was written nearly a fortnight since & I thought to be sure I should have sent a long letter, for there is much I want to say: but from one cause and another I have been prevented. I did not know of Eliab's going but 10 minutes before he went and I was down town, so I could not have sent a letter if I had had it written. Last Tues. I had another chance to send directly home, by Mrs. Palmer but I did not know it till 9½ in eve. & she to ~~start~~ next morning at 4: I should have written some though but could not muster apparatus. The 4th was a lonely and rather a sad day to me. I went out to see the procession in the morning — nothing very interesting to me, — had to wait till 12 o'clock to see them, was vexed with myself for going, — might have written a letter in the time wasted. I spent the afternoon entirely alone in the house. Joseph called a little while in the eve. he and E. had engaged to come and take a walk, if they could not succeed in making Donk give us a ride, but E. went down river & J. did not come — thought I went with him. I suppose it is necessary — and do'nt know as there is any help for it but I much regret that Joseph is so confined & that he makes himself so little of a social being: I fear it will have a disastrous effect through life on his health,

his manners and social character. It is altogether unreasonable that he should have so little time to himself: he could probably find many situations where he could have more salary and have more time to himself.

I hope you will nurse Eliab up with dandelion & dock root & whatever else he needs. I should think it would be a good calculation, to for him to take Jockey on a circuit round the country and try to sell him: I should think C. would feel almost in an agony, as time flies on without his being sold since he must have the proceeds to meet his liabilities: Jo says the the ruinous error in our family is, to talk over perplexities, business, plans or troubles instead of acting on them. I think that we all should talk less, and do more.

I have paid for Mrs. Billington's bonnet $1,50 only, 50 of which I have yet received. Eliab has the pay for her butter enough to pay me. her bonnet could not be made very white because it had never been bleached & was sunburnt. Her black crape was ,19 the calico ,56 her dress $1,12½ sewing silk, 12½ the spools of cotton I forgot till I got so far from Main St. that I could not well get it: I believe I still have ,75 on hand belonging to her; Mrs. B. owes me a dollar and Almeda may if she pleases take pay of her through Eliab or she may send to me to get any thing more she wants.

I read a letter a day or two ago, from Lucy to Joseph, dating from La Grange but she did not tell when she went, nor how long to stay. I want much to hear the conclusion of her business with S. W. H. whom I saw night before the 4th

You must not blame me too much for writing so little home, for I have so much to think of & so seldom any length of time to sit down and write a letter in, that I put off setting about it thought I might write a little at a time & so get a letter after while which I mean to do in future. My labours in school, are not very arduous now, having not more than 25 scholars. have had two new ones in the last fortnight and lost 5 or 6 from whooping cough, and for visiting — my profits will be rather slim this term. even of the past term my avails were little more than enough to pay board & rent — many dropped off the latter end of term — but my board bill to pay from last quarter's bills was $30,00, this term it will be about 24. I shall not make more than half as much as I pay this summer, but probably I shall do [better] in the fall & winter; I think it would be much better for success and good policy ~~in~~, to have the house painted, an[d] why don't Charles let us know his conclusions he ought to have acted in some way two months ago, and not merely talked; I am afraid it is too late already to sell his cow to advantage. Joseph grumbles about the money he has already put into the schoolhouse, I don't see any prospect of being able to pay him more than the rent; he absolutely won't be at the expense of painting it, - I cannot from the avails of my school: & if it is done at all ~~the~~ at present, means must come from Charles, though of course at my expense. I have some idea of applying to the board of Education for the West for a situation as teacher and then if a chance comes sell the schoolhouse off and go —

E. A. Rich Bangor
July 22^d 1846

5

Mrs. Emma A. Metcalf
Milo, Me.

~~[illegible]~~ Dec. 17th/[illegible]

Dear Mother

We were very glad to receive your last letter dated the 2nd, the same day that Lucy's left here, which you have doubtless received ere this. I think it is a fine thing for Lucy to be away in one respect at least; — we get ~~a~~ whole letters from you now — Your worrying about Joseph we all conclude to be the consequence of your working too hard: but it seems to me you are more prone to indulge anxieties & harbour foreboding fears than you used to be; I entreat and beseech you not to feel anxious and troubled, about any of us; — it is certainly the safest and happiest as well as the right way, to trust. ——

Joseph is well & prosperous, has considerable leisure, is I believe reading or studying law, (alone of course). Eliab is well, lively, and happy, he had a present from Frank, of an elegant four bladed knife, for Christmas. —

Lucy likes her boarding place, says they are as clever as "ten thousand kernels of corn". I guess they like her well: Mrs. T. I suspect finds her superiour in every respect to what she expected: he is quite well off, they have never kept much society, but now wish to make some display; she has just had a velvet short cloak, that cost $30; — a silk dress at $24; — & a new thibet dress besides: Lucy has had sewing to do for Joseph which has taken up most of her time in school: she spends nearly an hour each half day

Joseph had a letter from Almeda a week or two since wishing more money & he and I sent letters to her a week ago with some money. she probably finds it necessary to expend more for clothing than she expected & there will be no loss but I should suppose she would have her doctor's bill given in by her or the friends there, if Mrs Child was knowing to it I think she would pay it in a moment. — Lucy wrote to Isaac last week.

helping me, which is a great benefit to the school, I think the advantage to her cannot fail to be considerable, she has been invited with company once already here at (Mrs Shepherd) and will be whenever she has company. she and I are going to visit Mr. Hartoun's next week she begins tomorrow to attend singing school two evenings in a week, a large contested class & superior teacher, Lizzie & I talk of getting up a [illegible] reading circle, if we do Lizzie will be one so that altogether I think she will have valuable advantages besides the religious privileges she will not work so hard, nor be so much exposed to cold as at home & her board saved is something, I don't think you have any right to worry about her if she was in Lowell factory like Tip Furber there would be more reason; here she is protected, defended & watched over; — I shall be at least as careful of her as I would be of myself; Joseph on the same street to go with & wait upon her.

As to yourself, there is certainly no need that you should work hard and get fatigued; but instead of that, do enjoy yourself, read, write letters to us, & to Warwick friends, and take comfort, thinking how near your children are, most of them within half a day's ride; & how much gratitude is due our Heavenly Father that we are all so comfortably & pleasantly situated, especially that the boys, just come upon the stage of action, promise so fair for future respectability & usefulness. J. & E. are both becoming known and respected. The week that has just passed has been one of leisure to me, as well as pain. I have been wearing two pairs of cotton drawers but Mrs S. not having had washing done for sometime, mine were most all dirty, so a week ago (Sunday I put on but one pair, thinking I could make up the deficiency by wearing a warmer shirt but Monday my back began to be lame & Tuesday morning I could scarcely move without screaming — real rheumatism, so I sent to

Lucy & she kept school here. came over here after school helped Lizzie Doe write some funny letters for the post office at the Episcopal fair held that evening; she staid all night with me and kept school the next forenoon (Wednesday) then dismissed for the rest of the week. Christmas came Friday so it was but a day & half. Lucy helped Mrs. Baxter pretty busily that afternoon & Thursday to get herself & children ready for a Christmas party at her cousin's: Christmas day (Friday) she came here just after dinner & staid till the next afternoon

Friday eve. the boys both came in & we all had a nice time in my chamber, — the family all went to a party. I have not been to meeting to-day being still rather stiff & a little lame, but am quite smart & shall keep school tomorrow; I have a large plaster on my back, & have made my warm cotton flannel drawers. I had time to do a number of little jobs (being able to sew most all the time. I had Lucy bring over her plaid winter dress & fixed the waist, made it long-waisted with a cross-way belt, new gaged the skirt so that it hangs beautifully, & the dress looks really genteel. we cut out some flannel waists for her while she was here, & she partly made them.

I spent last Monday evening at Mrs. Pomeroy's very pleasantly; she called to me as I was going by to come in to take tea. she invited me to sit in their pew, which comes just right for the only seat I have been able to procure is needed for Lucy there being no room in the pew where Joseph sits.

A week or two ago I called into Mrs Otis. and met Mrs. Cutting there, (Mary Barnes' Aunt) she has married a man who has three sweet children, the oldest 9; she told me she was going to send to me when their present term is out; after she had gone, Mrs. Pomeroy said to me "You must remember I spoke to you about Anna first, so if you should not have room for all, she has the first claim! that was quite flattering —

Mrs. Anna N. Metcalf
Milo Me.

E. A. Rich Bangor
Dec. 20th '46

Anne   Racine

Jan. 21. 1850

My dear Mother   Racine Jan. 21st 1850.

I am ashamed to see by the date of yours how long a time has passed since I have written.

I wonder at myself since the way to get the letters I prize so much is to write often myself;—my thoughts are towards home daily, but this ~~west~~ is a hurrying world as well as down east and more so,

I am borne on from day to day in the busy whirl of passing events—the cares toils and petty occurrences of each day and though I have not so much care and responsibility as sometimes there is not in consequence the more leisure. I am situated so that my time out of school is more interrupted than ever before I think.

I have no fire in my own room; but sometimes I have a nice quiet evening to myself, and should spend them frequently in writing but with poor candlelight it hurts my eyes and makes my head feel unpleasantly so I avoid it somewhat. I conclude my last written to you and Joseph—directed to you, had not reached you when you wrote—perhaps it miscarried as Joseph has not answered it as I hoped he would long since, he sent me a paper from Waterford—I do not know whether he is still there. I wish you would not wait to receive an answer but write whenever you can, assured that news from home will ever be most welcome to one far away among indifferent strangers. I am highly favored in respect to pleasant situation, the enjoyment

efforts while I have health and strength in laying up something or should I come and help you, enjoy the kindness and affections of friends, trusting that my wants will be supplied.

of the common mercies and comforts of life, - privileges especially uninterrupted health, yet I am sometimes obliged to feel that I am a wanderer, away from those who care for me. I cannot even speak of my friends for nobody here cares for them: E. Doe and even Mrs. Shepherd manifested some interest in my Mother brothers & sisters for they knew something of them. —— Isaac used to speak of the north room in the old house as the pleasantest of rooms, I understand his attachment for it now, it seems to me I would give much to be once more in that little room, before the cheerful fire with the family all around it as in old times: but this can never be. — the happiness of being children at home - the purest of earth, or with the least alloy —— is past. Lucy wrote me a good long loving letter lately describing her house furniture, dress, about Jane her doings giving me a lively picture of the happy quiet life she is now leading, - she is full: in all ^that^ respects her personal situation she is satisfied: how few probably can say so: - her letter made me glad, yet it brought up some sad thoughts too, - not I am sure because she is surrounded with the loved and loving, in that I truly rejoice, - nor because I am a wanderer and alone, for I am where my Father has placed me, I have enjoyed and do enjoy as much ^probably^ as the most favored - but the conviction comes to me, that the family circle is in a sense separated, never to be united - one by one the tendrils loosen from the parent stem and from each other, forming stately

self-supporting plants — Feb 2d Another week has passed, a donation visit here in the mean time has banished quietness and order from the house, — wearied every body — I took a severe cold in the midst of it, have been most sick there two or three days: — their donation amounted to 160 dolls. 50 in money. There have been strange doings here, wrangling, unchristian feelings — Mr. H has been dismissed by the church, or rather by the session — the Presbyterian church is governed by elders who with the pastor constitute the session in the hands of whom the power chiefly rests. Mr. H. & his friends have roused up, talk of keeping him building a new church. the result is uncertain. Mrs. H. means at any rate to go on with her school another year: she has hired a new teacher for the juvenile department, inexperienced but well qualified, she has been two years a pupil at S. Hadley, can teach algebra which I cannot, — I conjecture that Mrs. H. intends to do with her services only, after my term expires: I do not wish to stay unless she should be _very_ anxious to have me, do not think I shall want to at any rate: taken in all respects I feel more in a state of servitude than ever before in my life, but the experience will be valuable to me; I do not regret it and I have been able to save more than in any year before little as the pittance is. At the 1st Nov. there was due me 130. of which up to this time I have spent $58. — We settled 1st Jan. I offered to let it remain if Mr. H. would give me a note but she was unwilling to pay interest, therefore I told her I would take the money as soon as she could pay it. she intends to pay me 50 in a few days which I wish to send to Eliab to invest in some way, or some of the rest of you so as to be gaining.

I hardly know whether it is safe to send a bill in a letter – feel a little in doubt about it.

I have heretofore lived chiefly in the present, like Isaac, I have plucked the flowers by the way, heard the birds carol, rejoiced in the present sunshine, thinking little of the end of the path. I have in truth been finishing my education, gaining knowledge and experience, while shifting along through various scenes and circumstances: it is well – I have needed all the teachings I have had; but the time will come when I shall want a quiet haven to rest in, and my idea of home includes 'a local habitation', though not a 'name': of having a home amongst my friends, the idea is far from pleasant – the chief happiness this earth can give, consists to me, in the enjoyment of family affection – and of the social principle in intercourse with friends. – here I sometimes feel a solitude of the heart when the knowledge is forced upon me that no one around me however polite and pleasant, cares a straw for me, but I want to look forward to a place I can call home – do not want to be an aunt or sister at large, but a daughter sister and aunt at home, – but I have no right to mark out my way to fix in my mind that one situation is pleasant another not so, since I know nothing about it save that I have a good home, kind friends and in many respects thus far a favored lot. I have been led into this train of thought by looking forward to next July when Mrs. [illegible] expects to go East to accompany her daughter to South Hadley, having a long vacation: then the question is, what shall I do. Go to Chicago and open a school or some city farther south? or go to Jerusha W. & teach there if I can? or take a school in this region either private or public? and so try to amass filthy lucre enough for spending money, then go home and live with you; comfort and assist those who need it; – or do this last trusting Providence for means. I want to go home it seems as if I could not stay away another year, I want to help you in ministering to Joseph's comfort and happiness: but I have no resource against sickness or old age – Does duty require me to bend my

If you knew how glad I was to receive your last letter you would write me another very soon

Racine May 15th

My own dear Mother

I fear you are beginning to think me quite dilatory in answering your two good, most welcome letters but as I wrote to Almeda and Joseph just after receiving your last I thought best to wait a little — then for two or three weeks the question was pending whether I remained here or went to Milwaukie to become a sort of private governess to a widower's children — an Irish lawyer.

I wrote Lucy a full account of the matter — will not take room now to go into detail, only to say that I thought seriously of going, the salary would be more than I now receive, the labour and burdens less, probably, but the care and confinement would be incessant, I did not quite like the name and sound of it, nor the looks & character of the man so I declined, but recommended Miss Bright, who had written me begging to find something to do, but my letter to her was delayed so the place was supplied before her answer reached me.

Mrs. H. ~~was~~ when I told her about it very unwilling to have me go; her school is not so large, Mr. Hopkins is without a salary, and she wishes to journey east, means run short, so she wished to dispense with one teacher, having me stay, because I could manage the school better keep it along in her absence and

I have been attending a singing school sort of Glee Class like presented

I purchased at Chicago a new shell comb, and a barege de laine at 12½ per yard. I have not bought any article of dress since I came. My Mantilla I have worn four summers and it is quite a genteel article now.

My love to all and each. My remembrance and regard to any who inquire for me.

Anne Racine Wis.
May. 15. 1850

my engagement was for two years but when she came to tell the other teacher — a finely educated young lady from South Hadley and Bradford Mass. schools — (her friends live here and she was three years ago a pupil of Mrs. Hopkins) when she was told that she would not be needed the present summer, she was offended, thought Mrs. H. rather unfair —! Mrs. H concluded to retain her at present though the school really is not profitable enough to warrant the time and expense of two teachers besides herself. there being not 60 average, of pupils small ones and all.

My situation in the family is rather pleasanter in some respects than two months ago: I give satisfaction and am in favor generally I believe with the scholars and others, but I cannot teach Algebra, & Botany, two studies much called for here: the first very important, — Mrs. H. does not teach it herself so she must have a teacher who can, French in which I am quite 'au fait', is not called for, Miss Marsh the other teacher does not teach that nor Drawing but is at home in Algebra and Botany: — the result of all seems to be that Mrs. H. can do without my services better than without hers, and if I had another situation I think she would be now glad to have me leave but as it is I shall I suppose stay until last of Aug. My pay I may in vain expect at present, for she needs to use the money as fast as she receives it. They are per-

plexed, troubled in many ways. The small minority who go with him — of his church, — are trying to build a meetinghouse, so he gives up all salary for the present; they have been much tried; are really worthy conscientious people with as few failings perhaps as the generality of people; I have no fears of getting my pay sometime: — there are people here that have known them more than twenty years. Doubtless I shall explore some new feild next fall, what, and where I do not know. Last week I took a trip to Chicago, a city 60 miles from this in Illinois of 30 thousand people where ~~fourteen~~ fifteen years ago there was not a house; the man lives here who built the first house a capt in U. S. service have command at the fort there. It is a city on the edge of a large prairie, built on both sides of a river for a mile and a half, also on the shore of the lake, very low as flat as a table; there can be no cellars in the place for two feet below the surface it is all water which rests on a firm bed of clay. It is muddy, filthy, unpleasant in appearance but full of business, all sorts of enterprise — the greatest wheat market in the world. Mr. Hopkins went to attend a convention I went with him ostensibly for the pleasure of the excursion but I wanted to find out what prospect I might have there to teach: one of our teachers is there in a private school; she thinks I could succeed well to open a school there talks some of returning herself if she does I can have her school: she makes more than I do

My excursion to Chicago cost me 3,25: am glad I went.

The various shiftings of circumstances, the arrangement and ordering of the complicated fretwork and frame of Providence, has its bearing on each individual being nicely adjusted to suit the need or accomplish the result intended for each, so the same train of events brings infinite diversities of fortune and experience according to the varying circumstances of each one:—

If last March, Miss Marsh's brother and friends who had professed to be friends – had not turned against Mr. Hopkins, my situation through the summer would have been very uncomfortable, my stay unwelcome without any great blame anywhere but simply from the natural workings of human nature, thus events very painful to Mr. & Mrs. H. operate in a measure, in my favor. As it is Mrs. H. does not wish to retain Miss M. if she could get along about Algebra.

I do'nt know but I shall try to study it myself. but I do not want to;- in order to secure the needful elasticity of mind while such demands are made upon the physical and mental nature as must be in teaching steadily; one needs ease and recreation rather than forced and wearying application. It was a mistake in me not to make myself acquainted with that and practical Botany: with my experience in that case I could command a much more desirable situation.

Mrs. H. means to have me keep the school while she goes east without much vacation till last of Aug. It will be harder for me, I dread the summer, especially after Mrs. H. goes, for the governess housekeeper and myself are like the repelling poles of the magnet, she dislikes me. is a person of very strong prejudices; is terribly fidgetty, awful particular, with one of the sharp cold blue eye, sarcastic, dictatorial:— were Mrs. H. like her. I should not have been her assistant long. I have some petty annoyances but not perhaps worth taking the trouble to write: something amiss is found everywhere, some fault in every character — here is the most perfect management in housekeeping; every thing orderly, nice, comfortable.

Anne Racine Wis.
Aug. 24. 1850

Racine Aug. 24th /50.

Dear Mother

Your letter dated Aug. came to hand a few days since, making my heart glad, as letters from home always do. I received one from you and Isaac, some two weeks since which I intended to answer immediately but circumstances prevented. The housekeeper Miss A. of whom I have spoken in my letters who had been sick for the last eight weeks, died day before yesterday, was buried yesterday: she suffered much - required watchers every night. Mrs. H. has been detained in taking her journey to Mass. five weeks, - is now making all haste in her preparations to go. I have waited some too, in order to come to a definite conclusion in regard to my course, before writing again. I feel as much desire to return as you can have for me to come, and I do not fear at all but I should be happy and contented even in the circumscribed sphere of "Cedar Grove" - year after year, -

The consideration that I have health and energies for active exertion - - ability to earn something, has made me hesitate and rather determine, that if the way was opened by Providence, I would stay and teach until another summer, but no such way appears. Mrs. H. makes some change in her school, wants a teacher in Latin Algebra and Geometry, & ~~has~~ engaged a lady just come from Pittsfield Ms. ~~to~~-day: If I was capable of teaching all she requires, she

would be glad to have me stay, and would give me a higher salary: but it would be hard for me to make up my mind to stay as her assistant.—

As it is, my way is plain — I feel as if I ought to be at home to lessen your cares and labour, and especially on Joseph's account;— I am tired of teaching too, — have labored hard for the last five years with but two weeks interruption, I feel as if I had done about my share of teaching. Had I a moderately fair compensation for all my labour in teaching I should have a competence for the rest of my life.

I want to rest from it awhile at any rate, if I wish to engage again and no suitable opportunity offers there, I can go to Hartford again and by paying my own expenses out can obtain a situation much better than to write to Gov. Slade, for he would not remember me, and they feel under no obligation to assist the teachers after being once provided with a place. —

I get along very well in school — more pleasantly on the whole this summer than ever before since I have been here, both in school and at home. My term closes the 20th Sept. and I shall probably start for the East the first part of Oct. that is a better month for going on the lakes than Sept.

O how I wish Eliab would come out to go home with me I dread the long journey;— I don't know as he would feel that it would be consistent for him to take the time and money for such an excursion, yet it could not fail to be a great benefit to him at his

age; to his health, — the vigor of his physical system; — the change, travel, relief from business and care would be no slight object; — then to a lively intelligent young man of his enquiring turn, the tour across the country on this great thoroughfare where all classes and nearly all nations are represented, would be almost equal to the tour of Europe. It is my opinion, aside from all selfish considerations, that fifty dollars — and that would furnish him well, (for travelling expenses) would in his case be well invested: — probably there will be no time in his whole life that he would derive equal benefit from it and he means to see the west sometime. I have written to him some, about it, but at the time had not certainly decided to go myself; Will not you and Charles advise him to, I suppose he could use the money without any loss inconvenience — which is not so easy after one goes into business.) — and if he has his health could replace it in a very short time, for he does not have to labour on year after year like the weaker sex, for a mere pittance, and an uncertain prospect for the future. To my mind, the knowledge and experience gained while young, by intercourse with the world, in different places and circumstances is so valuable — comes into use so much in after life, that money seems in comparison a small matter. If he could be here the last week in Sept, he could spend a week or two in looking about and return the middle of Oct. — However I do not want him to come, unless he really thinks the benefit will be equal to the expense for I have

no doubt I shall get along well enough: Some from this place are always going to Buffalo if not to N. Y.

I feel now pretty certain of returning home, yet if Providence should open a way for me to make well by staying another year It might be duty to do it. I shall write again before I start.

Anna—

10

Mrs. A. M. Metcalf
Milo Me.

RACINE Wis. AUG 25

[illegible] Oc: 5th /50

My Dear Mother

Your letter came safely to hand about a fortnight since. I suppose it is scarcely necessary for me to write again, but as it may be three of four weeks before I reach Milo I will tell as nearly as I can where I shall be during the time.

I expect to start next Mond shall probably take the railroad though a little more expensive, to Detroit, thence take a boat and land at Erie and spend next Sabbath at Westfield N.Y. instead of going on to Buffalo and staying over the Sabbath at a hotel there alone. This will be much pleasanter for me and besides secures me company from there to Boston. It is by special invitation from a young lady who visited here a few weeks ago, her brother she wrote me is going right on to Boston. From here to Erie I presume I shall find company, think I shall get along well. I had thoughts of visiting cousin Henrietta on my way and wrote her to ascertain the best route and the expense but have concluded the visit short as it must be is not worth the expense.

I feel a little unpleasantly to pass so near Seneca Falls without visiting them. [illegible] I have

Love to all the folks.

started earlier, I would certainly go there
I am afraid too that I shall be obliged
to pass by the Falls without seeing them not
because I am not willing to spend the money
but from the want of company. It would be
neither safe proper nor pleasant to visit them
alone. Mr. H. has paid me all up mostly in
gold, all that they were under <u>obligation</u> to pay
nothing more no liberality, just strict justice in
their estimation rather niggard though. Mr H.
engaged another teacher five weeks ago just before
she left, and three weeks before the term closed: one
who could teach Algebra from Mass. thus cutting
me off from the chance of staying if I had wished
which I did not — invited her right here to the
house to stay because she was afraid she would
get prejudiced against her where she was
boarding. — I did not know she was coming
till I came home after school, and found her here
— only a young and incompetent girl, it devolved
on me to take the direction of the household see
to every thing had to see to cooking more or less
every day, taking much of my time and some
labour when I was very much hurried in pre-
paring for my journey. Well I did every thing
faithfully that was necessary, made pies and cakes
had the sewing Circle here to tea (about 25 in
number)

I will write - [illegible] to [illegible] if I can tell long enough beforehand when I shall reach Bangor.

because no other one was offered for them to meet. for all my faithful care and labour I have not been so much as thanked. Most persons would have made a handsome present feeling that that but poorly paid. She has spent a great deal of money this summer fitted her daughter out to school had to hire money to go her journey and to pay me - interest here is 15 percent, — Mr. H. is receiving no salary. his small and poor society exhausting all their means on a new church for him to preach in, so they feel poor and are really straitened: allowance must be made. it makes people mean to be poor. which is one of the most biting evils of pov.

I have learned some useful lessons in my experience here — I have been too good too obliging, too ready to exert myself for their interest and their good; they praise me up to the skies, acknowledge my faithfulness to their interests, my efforts for their advantage, would be glad to have me stay could I teach Algebra, but I verily believe come to actual treatment throughout it would have been better, had I been more selfish cared for nothing but my own ease and convenience and acted independent of their interest: whether this lesson will prove a true one in respect to all the world, or whether there are some people capable of being generous and noble in their feelings I will wait for further experience to decide: I hope to bring home besides the expenses of the journey about fifty dolls. for my years labor.

OCT
6
Wis.

10

Mr. A. M. Metcalf

Care of C. W. Rich Esq.

Milo Me.

Oct. 5. 1850

Anne Hampden

Nov. 1850

I write an appendix to Almeda's letter, though I know not what she has written — to say that I think of taking the stage to Milo not until next Mond. or possibly Wednes. because it seems rather necessary for me to stay a day or two after the nurse goes at the end of this week.

Lucy is steadily progressing in health and strength ate a cup brimfull of oysters for dinner to-day — will talk when we tell her not to, is really getting along finely; has taken no medicine for several days and sleeps well. Mrs. Finnigan is just finishing the cleaning — the carpets are changed. Dr Furber is down but did not stay here any. We had a great soup for dinner to day with some splendid dumplings which Almeda made after my receipt — we intend boiling a "any quantity" of beef for mince pies this P. M. Lucy's dress is nearly done, I have been up to the city, bought Almeda a cap for 5 0 &

the pretties nextt ribbon you ever saw, ~~and other ornaments~~ a dress for you .... Eliab was here Sunday last eve He had a letter from Charles. nothing new however

Adieu Ann

Mrs. A. M. Metcalf.
Milo Me.

We all send love to all, and Joseph.
write how you get along and how
the children manage; are they contented and comfortable
can I stay a fortnight longer

Westfield
Feb. 20 1851

Wednes. eve. Feb. 26th /51.

My beloved Mother

I have felt a sort of presentiment for several days that I should soon have a letter from you and this feeling has been strengthened by the fact, that I have dreamed of you three nights, – the last, that you scolded me for some act of carelessness, Have I not strong reasons to expect a letter?

If Isaac is still there, why does he not write me, he surely has leisure enough. – I am confidently looking for a letter from Lucy every day suppose you have by this time received two from me, giving all particulars of my state and condition. I have just finished writing this letter to Charles, which I am certain will be read for the sake of the writer not for anything particularly interesting contained in the letter. I intended to give him an account of some sales of farms in connection with the railroads building here, and various business operations, but the sheet got filled with words before I was aware.

I am just scribbling a little to you in the same envelope, without speaking of a letter, I am sitting by my table up stairs – (the chamber is warmed by the stove below); Marietta, the daughter is seated by my side also writing; – we have two good candles; it

is a little past nine, my eyes are beginning to feel a little weary, I must not say much more this time but go to bed. I sit most of my evenings with family in the sitting room, to the great detriment however of my reading or writing for the good 'old folks' are extremely fond of talking, and I am generally a pretty good listener. The good, pious, 'square' old gentleman I love to talk with he has a strong, original, though uncultivated mind — the mother's sharp eyes peering over her spectacles, and fixing upon me as her prey exacts my attention to long yarns about persons and events doubtless quite interesting to her, but often not so much so as my book to me; she is however truly kind and an excellent woman. ———— —

My visit home seems like a dream — yet a long one - for the time seems to have been at once both long and short — I can scarcely realise that I am away again and in Westfield where I never expected to be again,

How confidently I anticipated a long season of enjoyment with you all: there seemed a certainty, that I should sit quiet and retired at home, enjoying and improving by intercourse with the well-stored and well-trained mind of our dear Joseph. I never before at all realized that death and separation must certainly come to us, as well as other. I think I shall never again make that entire dependence upon anything in this world. Plans and expectations to have been frustrated so entirely and evidently by Providential circumstances over which we had no control. I ought to be thankful that this pleasant and eligible situation has been provided for me and I am thankful.

Religious privileges are good here. I have not enjoyed sermons so much for years as I do Mr. Tinkers. I attended meeting but two half days all the time I was at home. I did not enjoy going in Bangor.

Much love to Almeda, Lucy, all the children, Albina. I am fond of receiving letters.
Anna

Ann Apr. 30 -

Westfield Apr. 30th /57

Dear Mother

I sent a letter to Lucy telling all the news about myself a day or two since. directed it to Eliab that he might send it to her for I don't know whether or not she is still at Milo, now if she is there as I think most probable, there is no need of my writing again so soon except for this reason. I forgot to tell her where to send the bundle she intends to, by the Furbers. It is to be directed to me, to the care of Stephen Rumsey Esq. Westfield to be left at A. Rumsey's leather Store Buffalo, opposite the Mansion House: Mr Furber can find the store easily for it is a large establishment that is well known, or if he finds the Mansion House he will see the store opposite: from there it will reach me without trouble or expense: I have just written to E. Doe to purchase a dress and Mantilla for me in Portland to send by the Furbers, or bring herself if she comes with them. - goods are considerably higher here, from cost of transportation - higher than at Racine. I enclosed money to Elizabeth requesting Mrs. Shepherd if she is not in Portland to send the money and directions to Lucy to the care of Eliab; in case the money should be sent to Lucy I wish, if she finds it convenient and judges best, that she would get Mrs. Webster to make the purchases to send by Mr. Furber: if or if not, write me word and Eliab can take charge of it

Tell Charlie not to forget Aunt Ann and she will come to see him sometime

money, and I will get the [illegible] some other way here.

My dear Mother I wish I could be with you this day see what you are all doing, look over the familiar scenes; + the coming of spring reminds me of home, and of the past, and of dear Joseph too. Is the grass green there? are the trees covered with budding leaves and the air warm and balmy? Is the baby good-natured? How does Almeda in her affairs prosper this spring? Is not C. most ready to answer my letter? How does Lucy get along for I cannot make out from her letters whether she is really improving in health or not. School is about as usual, I have no more trials or unpleasant things than many times before, in some respects less, yet I confess I take little pleasure in my daily duties, I act my part in the busy drama, because I must, but the buoyancy I used to feel, and that ambitious expectation of future good to be attained is not in me, I know I ought to be thankful that I have the opportunity of doing something for my own benefit as well as others, but should I follow inclination only, I would not keep school another day. I should enjoy more to stay right there at [illegible] doing what my hands could find to do, ~~than~~ as it suited me, than to be among strangers, - a spectacle, in dress, actions, appearance, liable to all sorts of remarks, giving and receiving acts of mere outward kindness, in which there is little real interest, but I receive for the time I teach, but five cents less than six dollars a week and therefore it is much better for me to teach. My boarding place is too far from the school, I shall probably change after this term: the people here are seemingly substantial, steady, common sort of people, most of them taking little interest in strangers, keeps at

[illegible] till I earn 12 or 15 [illegible] enough to return home

home, I have not become much acquainted yet: one thing I like, there seems to be a social mingling of all together, not a few who claim precedence in every thing, I have had but four invitations to tea since coming. There is a sewing Society once a fortnight which I suppose I should find for my interest to attend, so as to get acquainted, but I do'nt feel like going after school — perhaps I shall though after a time put myself up to it. I surmise the 'misses' of school do not like me over much, but I had rather have it so than to be too popular at first. Isaac sent me a letter dated Cuba less than a hundred miles from me, and I did feel bad to think of his having been so near me, and yet not see him: I am very glad he visited Uncle Humphrey's: I want to go myself now; what do advise me about my journey in vacation? I can visit Uncle Humphrey, provided Isaac will write me more exactly where they are, or I can take a boat to Detroit, and go to Uncle Hall's, or I can go by water to Cleveland, thence by canal to Zanesville to see cousin Jerusha; each at about the same expense — ten or twelve dollars which is but little more than my board would be here.

How is it about the 'American Traveller'? does Charles take it or has it been stopped? I want some Eastern paper to read — get little news beyond N. York if the cost is but two dolls. I should like to take it and will you write me the address

The people in this good town all make rag carpets about once a year, cut up old calico, old shirts, cold and every sort of thing that is old trash in a house: — great ado too is made of housecleaning, walls whitewashed every spring to take off fly marks though before almost like snow.

I am trying to save all I can so as to lay up enough to retire from business one of these years. —

This is rather a barren epistle, scarcely containing any thing worth sending so far. I wish you would write a little to me every day or two and when you get a letter full send it without reference to my letters and I will try to do so too

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] garden [illegible] there are 18 peach trees in full bloom besides a long row of them

Mrs. A. M. Metcalf
Milo Me.

My two recitations Kames Element & Intellectual Philosophy I have to study some out of school. —

Westfield
Aug. 17 1851

Westfield Aug. 17th/51

Dear Mother

I wrote you just a fortnight since at Dunkirk, where I was detained some hours waiting for a boat; one of the waiters told me there was a Post Office at the hotel and promised put my letter in but I was hurried away when the boat came in, without a chance to pay for my breakfast and perhaps they in revenge did not send my letter as I have heard nothing from you — it is two months since the date of Lucy's last letter.

I got home safely Sat. P.M.; the next morn at the church door met Miss Woodbury, one of the teachers who went with me to the West; she taught near Milwaukie, one year we exchanged visits, my first summer at Racine; She belongs to Fitchburg Mass. attended teachers' Institute at Royalston last fall is well acquainted in all the towns about there knows cousin Josiah Metcalf and altogether seems quite like an old friend to me in this land of strangers.

She comes through my means by request of the Trustees to take charge of the Juvenile department of the Acad. is almost deformed in shape but noble in mind and heart, showing a beautiful soul enshrined in rather a plain casket. She will be just such a true friend to me I hope and believe as I need. In a week or two I intend leaving this (Mr. Brumsey's) for her boarding place much nearer school — a place engaged for her, previous

I send you some pretty variety of pink: [illegible] spider wort which [illegible] feathers in [illegible]

to going my journey, with a view to going there to board myself on my return. We have for our use a pleasant chamber high with three windows, and a bedroom opening out of it — a 'suite of rooms,' you perceive — I do not expect to feel so much at home or enjoy myself so well as where I am, as respects the family, but it is hard walking so far — over half a mile — and I shall have more privacy in my room, and what I lack here in a measure congenial companionship.

It will be two weeks Wednes. since the new term commenced: I am pleased thus far with the new Principal, the assistant too, who take the mathematical department thus relieving me from the tediousness of teaching Arithmetic: I have fifty two young ladies under my charge fifteen or sixteen of them teachers while the two gentlemen teachers have between them ~~thirty~~ forty two or three young men and boys.

Mr. Pilsbury the late teacher has made great efforts to get scholars to follow him to his new place forty miles west, offering free tuition, he has induced several young men to go which is one cause of the small number of the male department. His course has not been honourable and calls for him from the people here some odium.

I suppose I am called popular either as a cause or consequence of my large number.

A fortnight ago next Tues. — the last day of my vacation all suddenly, early in the morning, Eliab made his appearance. I was most truly glad to see him but disappointed that he did not come sooner, — then we could have journeyed together and enjoyed so much, but we made the best of it and had a fine time, he visited with at a sick summers which he seemed to enjoy, we had a long ride too. He left in the boat for Cleveland the next evening promising to write me in a few days which he has not yet done, and to come back this way — it will make no difference in expense — and stay two or three days. I hope he will take time enough to recruit, I never saw him so thin I think.

Sabbath eve. Aug 24th Eliab has been here since Wednes. which I have enjoyed much, and he too he says, employing himself part of the time in posting accounts for Mr. Bumsey who is sick: — He will tell you all about his stay here. I received Lucy's letter last Tues. but not the promised one from Samuel, nor from you Mother. Without speaking of any desire I have to receive letters from you, I should really be much troubled at the thought of your giving up the habit of writing because some one else can write the news: by this course one after a time loses the faculty of writing, so that not only, it becomes an irksome undertaking, but truly difficult, as in the case of Charles: he is already so out of practice,

that, though abundantly capable of writing an interesting letter he cannot, or which is as bad, will not even answer a letter to his sister; and I believe Almeda is fast proceeding in the same steps.

The power of habit is strong. Hannah More wrote a book after she was 70 years of age, for which she received $15000.: She wrote 11 books after she had passed 60 years. Received a letter from Isaac last week; he has not yet heard from home.

Eliab and I have each written him a long letter to be mailed tomorrow and E. has written to the Greenleafs at Springfield to forward letters if any remain at that place. I presume he will get them after time all in a bunch. It seems he now receives at the rate of $1100. per yr expenses paid, which is little enough pay, for being shut out from "any where", and eaten by musquitoes, without even the semblance of society or civilised life. Lucy do you have much company? Does it hurt you to ride? Cannot you give me a better idea how you are in respect to health? Do you have enough of change in the occupation of your mind to furnish the faculties, healthful and pleasurable play?

I would if in your place take pains to let Sarah Harlow be assured, of the fact, that you neither wish nor need her society or notice, — she has changed much I think since I first knew her: As to Mother's going to church with Madam Matty — that it was any honour, to her, would be the last idea that would enter my cranium.

Westfield
Sept. 17 1851

Westfield Sept. 17th /51.

Dear Mother

I received your letter very gladly a day or two since, had been waiting and wondering at not hearing from Elias — thought you would some of you write as soon as he returned. Why didn't he write some too instead of sending me a page of blank paper? I want to know whether he has engaged permanently with Brown or not, and what his prospects are. I think it a pity that Sam'l with his capability should not have business enough; there are plenty of situations in this region yielding two or three thousand a year which he or Elias either would well fill, could they be obtained but he must keep up good courage, and you, too, Mother must try to see things on the hopeful side "the darkest cloud has a silver lining". Providence will open a path for them in some direction; a little time perhaps will set present circumstances in an entirely different aspect. What you wrote of Lucy troubles me much, but I cannot but hope that with judicious treatment and care she may regain her wonted strength. I have heard recently of several cases similar to hers, in which the cold water treatment has proved successful — I have much faith in its power to restore action to the system: Do not you know how to treat a patient by that mode? Should she not be able to walk for years, her case would not be singular only let her keep up good courage, and not allow her spirits to become depressed by dwelling on herself and destroy the healthy

tone of the mind, the thing most to be dreaded in all ailments; for what do the inconveniences even difficulties of one's situation amount to, if the spirits are well-tuned and the mind in good frame. – this last if we can maintain, all will be well. It is natural I think for one who has seen much of the disappointments and emptiness of life; as all have who have lived long; to become more and more distrustful of the promises of the future. but there is a confidence founded on experience of the merciful dealings of Providence, the many instances in which we have been dealt by better than our fears, better even than our hopes, so that if things look dark we have only to place unfaltering faith and trust in Him 'who doeth all things Well.' I have never realized until lately, how long we as a family had been spared afflictions previous to dear Joseph's sickness and death, – no abandoned and intemperate son and brother – for how long time, no wide separations – all near together, meeting often especially, all united in feelings and pursuits, so as to take pleasure in each other's society, apart from the sweet sense of kindred.' Time now seems to be bringing to us changes such as other families meet with, scattering us. – I feel bad that Isaac is located so far off and so out of the world, especially in so unhealthy a climate his business too exposing him so much. Perhaps he will continue there some years and that he cannot do deprived of either time or opportunity of mingling with and making one of an enlightened com-

munity without becoming changed somewhat, from our Isaac. — I have too, occasionally, some sad thoughts of myself: I am borne along on 'time's remorseless wing,' if unconsciously to myself, not the less really, — my years are passing away among strangers, I am in danger of becoming a stranger and ^a^ unfamiliar one in the family circle, not ^greatly^ missed, and in process of time little cared for, and being without family ties, merely a passenger in the busy throng, — I sometimes feel this so keenly that I think no advantages can compensate for the want of the home circle, — I suppose I am fulfilling the destiny Providence has marked out for me, filling the niche for which I was made, yet I do want to be remembered, to have a place left for me in all your hearts, to which I can turn, when I have performed my mission. I do not feel like repining, not ^at^ all, I am convinced that I have enjoyed a fair share of happiness, solid and rational; perhaps more than falls to the lot of the generality. My situation here is pleasant; excellent preaching, good society, an easy school, a sincere friend for a roommate and companion with a large heart and good sound sense; — the respect and esteem apparently, of the people around my world; — and last, not least firm health, and I trust a contented and thankful heart.

My new boarding place I find agreeable. I feel more independent and better accommodated here in a family of eight or ten boarders because I have my own room and can keep in it. Our bedroom is of convenient size, has a wide bed in it with

Do write me soon - what you are doing, [illegible] you pass your time, whether you have visited [illegible] and [illegible] Lizzy enjoys herself as well as at Hampden -

nice fixings, a window looking towards the west, a washing apparatus kept in good order, above it a row of large steel hooks to hang things on: then our sitting room or perhaps I should say parlour, contains three pleasant windows, one overlooking the garden, fruit trees &c. the others fronting on a lovely quiet street, completely shaded its whole length by large locust trees, giving glimpses of pretty white cottages with their gardens - vistas beyond of green fields and groves, farms and orchards. The floor is covered with a new, gay colored rag-carpet, - a table nearly square, stands under the glass, on which are arrayed several elegant books, workbox daguerreotypes, book of pictures like Lucy's Harper's Magazine, my nice bible, all looking quite 'recherché', on the blue and orange table cover, - on one side a little stand, exactly in the ~~centre~~ of it a white vase containing flowers, above it some small book shelves hung up with pretty green cord, I got them made for our convenience, for the sum of ,37½. on the other side of the room stand two large trunks, which with four chairs, complete the furniture of the apartment. Next. Sat. Miss Hoadbury and myself talk of stuffing and neatly covering a glass box for a seat or cricket. Our windows have bright blue paper curtains next the glass, over them long white, fringed curtains. For these accommodations I pay the same as at Mr. Rumsey's $1.75 without washing, which I hire at ,18 per week: - besides we are to find ourselves light and fuel, making the cost of board something more than 2,00 per week. I call in at Mr Rumsey's almost every day still sit in their pew, believe them to be real friends. Argyle is comfortable, is out riding every day, means to start for New Jersey on business in two or three weeks - still coughs some but is improving. Your Aff. Daughter Anna

I had a good long letter from Almeda about a fortnight since.

Westfield
Nov. 22 1851

Westfield Nov. 22 '51

Dear Mother

It is vacation time. I have had two days to rest since the toil, and exhausting excitement of public examination which lasted during two days and evenings. Miss Woodbury has gone to Fredonia fifteen miles from here to see an old friend from [illegible]. I have spent the day at Mr. Rumsey's, came home this eve in order to write you, though Mr. Rumsey seemed to feel almost hurt that I would not pass the night there, it is rainy and very muddy: and I almost regret not doing so, and trust to time tomorrow to write; — he manifests much kindness for, and interest in me and I feel that I have in them friends. Argyle has just returned in good health: I sent by him for shoes he bought them at wholesale price making a saving to me of from ,25 to ,50 on each pair of shoes. The usual price here for pretty good shoes is 1,37½ and 1,50. I had fixed my mind upon writing to you to night because I am all alone; so I have seated myself before the fire, beside the table, in my solitary chamber, while the storm is raging without. indeed there has scarcely been two pleasant days together for the last six weeks: every sabbath of them has been rainy: the whole season has been very wet and cold, the fall very unpleasant. the winters here are always so, the lake winds are rough & produce frequent changes of weather.

I have been very busy the last three weeks preparing

in the closing scenes of the term. The school has been large, & it considered the most important term because of the teachers' class, so much ado must be made. It has been no small labor to prepare the compositions alone nor a very pleasant employment to correct so as to render presentable, from 40 to 50 of the crude productions of most, though there are some fine scholars, who write compositions in quite a finished style. The exercises all went off well — an examining committee was appointed who asked some questions each teacher hearing his own classes. I had only four to hear; Rhetoric, French, and two, in History. could be seated with the spectators without any responsibility except for the deportment of my young ladies. Tues. eve the hall was trimmed with evergreens, the church lamps were brought, a crowd assembled and the exercises were closed by original declamations by six young men (teachers), compositions by young ladies, (some of the best — a paper by each, "Freethinker and "Dew-Drop" was read, interspersed with singing by "the Glee Club" (i.e. about a dozen, members of the school chiefly, who have met once a week during the term to learn pieces from the "Alpine Glee Singer"! some fine pieces were said to have been well executed by 'us' on that 'finale' occasion.

The day after school closed I did not pretend to do any thing but lounge, - yesterday I washed and starched sundry bits of muslin in various shapes, together with ten pocket-hdks, - fixed over a dress, and wrote a letter to Lucy Williams. To day I have fixed Miss Woodbury

off (and this means something) passed the day at Mr. Rumsey's sewing on my new nightgowns: tomorrow (sat.) if at all suitable weather I must make calls; next Monday and Tuesday will pass away like the dew before the sun and Wedn. my labors recommence, The next day is Thanksgiving in this state, and Mass. I have not been able to learn whether it is or not in Maine and how I wish I could be with you: - last year at this time we were as a family all near together and anticipating at least a brief period of entire reunion, - brief indeed it was. - now Isaac is away at the ends of the earth or at least of civilized world. I am here alone and afar off, and one dear one has gone from our sight forever: but we have all much to be thankful for and though separated now, we may a year hence be all gathered together again. I am looking forward with hope to being there with you all, staid and quiet, would like first to have opportunity to earn and lay by a little here for resource in a wet day but I do not give myself much trouble about that; I do not doubt but my wants will be supplied in some way. nor do I ever expect to be condemned to a life of uselessness and inactivity. I have never yet been in circumstances for any length of time, where there was not imperative need of my energies nor do I expect or wish any such time in the future, If I should give up teaching today I should find enough to do for myself and others: I have a sort of conviction that I have taught long enough, that the remainder of my life will pass more happily if not as profitably or use-

fully to lay aside the school ma'am - and with other pursuits and different duties, gradually slide into habits of mind and modes of thought suited to other circumstances:

I would probably have enough of teaching young ideas in the family to keep myself good and sufficiently "posted up" in such matters; - Though we may devise our way it is the Lord who directs our steps. How far from my thoughts or expectations, one year ago was it that I would be stationed here - another year may make still new scenes and unthought of changes, it is therefore best to establish it in the mind that the present only is ours making it the chief care to improve it aright.

Sat. I shall make no calls to day for the mud is deep, the rough cold winds whistle drearily and the air is full of snow which ever and anon comes whirling down in thick flakes darkening the sky and seeming for a few moments like a violent snow-storm.

Mr. Johnson the Principal of the Academy has made me a long call this forenoon in my room - we have no bed in our chamber so receive calls as in a parlour. - he is a good man, disposed to do every thing in his power for the school but lacks judgement, knowledge of human nature and cool dignity of demeanour, three very desirable traits for a head teacher to possess: he has an uncertain air, in walking, talking, managing but is a thorough scholar and in other respects a good teacher: the assistant, a young lawyer - possesses in a good degree what Mr. Johnson lacks.

I received [illegible] from Alice [illegible] brother writes me to come to the town [illegible] a meeting [illegible] this [illegible]

Ann Dec. 1851

Westfield Dec. 25th 51.

Dear Mother & very dear [illegible] I have just returned from a superb Christmas dinner, at the genteel hour of four P.M. at Mr. Rumsey's — it is snowing to day so Mr. R. came after and brought us back, manifesting himself and family as much kindness as ever: we did not spend the evening because friend Argyle was going up to his new father's with his wife and it was most convenient to dispose of us first; which arrangement is quite pleasing to me giving me a quiet, uninterrupted evening to write to you. Miss [illegible] my [illegible] sits on the opposite side of the table also writing, we are in no danger of visitors for it storms severely. We have had snow for two weeks and some quite cold weather. Last Monday was the first clear day for a week; it was cold and bad in the streets, so I [illegible] at noon; was seated at supper when Mr. [illegible] spoke of my large letter received and I found to my indignation that his boy had carried it in his pocket all day having forgotten to give it to me! [illegible] I was truly glad to get it, thank you much for the [illegible] half sheet — hope you will [illegible] at next time — tell me particulars, of your friends about work, — how [illegible] employ

yourself the livelong days, while winter winds whistle, without, and the piles of fleecy snow shut you snugly in doors. Do you not remember Christmas Eve last year when Elias came and brought Lizzie throught the ~~drifts~~ drifts and the next day, when we had such a busy, merry, planning, cozy day and then after it our hurry, our anxiety,—how vividly do the events, and all the circumstances of those few days —yes weeks— rise before me, I believe there will always be imprinted on my mind the memory of that time,—the joy the hope, anticipation, the blasting of hopes too, the certainty of sorrow and separation. I cannot analyse or understand my feelings about home but I am conscious of a feeling of uncertainty. whether ~~because~~ because of the severing of one link in the chain all seems less secure — or because I have been home so little for some years, or because the sanguine expectations and bright hopes of youth are receding to the background and their places filled by experience of life's chequered mode:— best that it be so;— since we need to be constantly reminded that "this is not our rest," — — —

I have had two letters lately from Texas, my two last to him have been detained on the route so [illegible] a long time reaching him. Received a letter from [illegible]

last week — he said nothing about my last to him which being a long letter in a strain of advice and moralizing I think he must have failed to receive it or he would have mentioned it. I feel gratified with his [illegible]ent disposition of himself but hope he will not spend most of his time in Mathematics — as that is quite his forte, the temptation will be strong with him to pursue them in order to show himself to good advantage whil[e] intellectual Studies, & the higher departments of Grammar and Rhetoric, — the Belles Lettres and of natural History it seems to me will better furnish, cultivate, enlarge and polish the mind. I am glad he is learning French — hope he will persevere and make thorough business of it. I think he is now, compared with others, both intelligent and cultivated and that he has the elements of a true manly character, but he has labored under the same disadvantage as myself, — while his character was forming, — placed where his defects of character might be noticed but not watchfully and lovingly amended: I think too he and I have naturally the same fault, — an overweening desire of approbation from others in some form or other — —

Frid. Morn. It is a warm, pleasant day, that is for winter, the streets very quiet. yesterday, bells were jingling at a merry rate, it would amuse you to see the variety of

[illegible] very old while from. formal do while me a letter[illegible]

I had the impression that Dr. George Leach was not a good moral man. My old pupil Mary Ann Lambert so gentle and accomplished, but it seems applied for Lizzie's school. Lizzie wrote me quite a little budget of Bangor news obtained by Mrs. Webster. How is she? Mrs. Thatcher too. What school does Mary Towne teach? and why teaches she at all? Bread is rather, seemingly, incomprehensible. Eliab wrote that aunt Esther told him she heard from Mr. Leach that a friend of hers Miss Putnam was engaged to a Mr. Metcalf an engineer! —

I suppose Samuel has gone ere this, — hope he will find time to write me when he comes home & next if he don't I will threaten at least to write to him. Mr. Hopkins' church is burned not the seminary, he is going to leave R.

Miss W. is well acquainted in Templeton with the Lee's, in Winchendon and Baldwinville: knows Josiah Metcalf and laughs about his idiosyncrasies of character his perfect absorption in his schools, his one idea-ed-ness: she had a letter recently from her cousin in B. where he is teaching giving her an account of his exhibition quite theatrical from pieces enacted at Boston Museum, he made great efforts, hired two assistants, one from Boston, the letter said that he hardly knew what he was about, he was so much excited could be seen any time the day before running about the streets with a straw hat on. he had a crowded house and it went off well though he was at so much expense buying scenery &c. that it was thought he could scarcely pay his way:- his school was a private one in Baldwinville a part of Templeton. it seems from all I hear of him that he must lack a correct estimate of the common affairs of life, perhaps owing to his bringing up. He is said to be talented.

I am quite delighted that Mother has arrived at such honour as to help write a book: she was indeed 'doing a great work'! but I am particularly grateful to Gen. Hodgdon for his encomiums on the 'buds and blossoms' - Query, Shall I appropriate the coveted name of bud? as to yourself I do not see how you can claim either ~~fo~~ he probably was not aware that you had ascended a step higher in the scale of vegetative honour.

You do not go out to church at all I suppose and I should think it rather far for Mother to walk. -

Did Jane go to school last summer, give my love to her tell her I hope when I come home next I shall find that she has been growing constantly in knowledge and goodness as well as in strength and stature.

Miss Smith returned the ten dolls. last spring.

One of the boys at school presented me yesterday with a young tame mouse. – he is just about as large as my thumb and is perfectly white; these white mice (exotics) are kept and reared by some about here in cages like canaries. you never saw any more cunning than it is taking its food in its fore paws to nibble it, and washing its face like a cat, it looks just like a Lillibutian pig being not so long as my thumb, and scarcely larger round. It has afforded us a deal of amusement – school does not keep the rest of the week after Christmas so I am having quite a nice time alone in our chamber! –

Miss W. says my action in ~~and~~ management of my mouse proves to her that I should make an excellent mother to some widower's children! – – It is a bright, bright day, rare enough in this region, neither windy nor cold and fine sleighing the sky clear and blue: I intend to write to Eliza this P.M. if not interrupted by company. O I must tell you that we were invited out to breakfast Christmas, and accepted. it was a place where I am quite intimate (E. Coleman)

conveyances here sleighing is so rare and so little reckoned upon that few take the trouble to procure sleighs but pungs, sleds, sledges, rough boxes of [illegible] ~~planed~~ boards ~~put~~ every thing in short that can be put upon runners, are in requisition and every decent one is called a cutter. I have been watching a few handsome [illegible] and [illegible] this morning. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] time was wearing [illegible] expense though now the [illegible] to put it out; Mrs. [illegible] our hostess, is poor but of unbounded ambition takes boarders to get means to educate and dress her children [illegible] the means shall make a figure in the world. We are constantly reminded by all the economy of the household, that the profit of our board is the great object. Miss W. is very independent and speaks right out, if her rights [illegible] not attended to: She is a natural [illegible] laughing, and finds the ridiculous side to most every thing. She is quite a talker, and reminds me of Almeda in some respects. her tastes and feelings are congenial with mine in a greater degree than is often to be found, [illegible] [illegible] in liking to spend [illegible] evenings in reading, rather than talking or much company and we agree well in the kind of reading: We have a volume of "Christopher North's (Prof. Wilson) recreations" a [illegible] [illegible] perhaps I mentioned it in my last. I wish you could read it. you would enjoy it so much it is full of fun and rich humour as well as beauty, sense and pathos: I dare say you could get it from the Library in Bangor: the same author you know, as "Lights and Shadows of Scottish Life" [illegible] [illegible]

Westfield
Feb. 8 1852

Westfield Feb. 8th, 52.

My dear mother

[illegible] have written a long letter [illegible] nearly all about [illegible], just ready to mail in which I have told all my thoughts and perhaps some that I didn't think, for certain.

It seems unnecessary to write any more now, but I think the sooner I answer yours, the sooner I may get another.

It is sad to think of living the most of one's life at a distance from all who really care for me with disinterested affection; yet if we can write often enough to have a connected idea of the thoughts, feelings, occasions of sorrow or joy, and daily occupations of friends, the discomfort and unhappiness of separation seems half removed: and I think letters now ought to be written easily, off-hand just as if chatting an hour or two not as if they must be intrinsically worth sending before sending at all except just for the purpose of furnishing news from friends and communing together, not to be preserved with care to be re-read but simply present expression of feelings, such letters need not require much time of [illegible] or be looked upon as a great work yet truly ministering messengers of love and happiness. may they be to the absent ones in a strange land. a few years ago and the luxury of hearing often from friends was attended with an expense that would be felt, now they can be transmitted quickly, safely, and at a mere trifle, therefore, let us write often: if not convenient to fill a sheet, send half, though I own it is a sort of disappointment to me to receive a short letter.

As to your taking so much care and labor upon yourself this winter, I think, all things considered, it is well, provided you do not overtask yourself, for it must be a vast comfort to you and Lucy to be there together. The care and work of any family however small, is hard because ever-returning, but surely there can be no need of your doing so much in a day, as to get all exhausted and low-spirited: it is neither wise nor economical to attempt more than can be done without much loss of accustomed freshness and vigor. You are prone we all know to go beyond your strength; perhaps many do occasionally, and sometimes without any great injury, for youth repairs its wasted spirits quickly, by long toil incurring short fatigue: it is far otherwise with you who have who have passed through so much to whom the loss of buoyancy and ~~what~~ of animal vigor there is remaining, must sensibly impair enjoyment, if it do not shorten life.

The shortness of time, is a weighty consideration bearing on this point. if the physical system be in good tone, the mind usually finds employment and enjoyment and improvement too, or can do so, however the hands are employed but if the body is overtaxed, the mind sympathizes with it and becomes unfitted for any thing but depressing, unthankful, perhaps repining, thoughts and uncomfortable feelings. What an amount of happiness true and deep, is cast aside by most, because the body has usurped all the energies, the mind is too weary, weak, or ignorant to appreciate or improve its own prerogative. I have enjoyed much this winter in my own mind, and in communion with other minds, by reading; I feel

the truth of what I told my scholars to day in connection with the lesson in Intellectual Philosophy: viz., that if the mind be rightly disciplined and improved, the longer one lives, the more happiness, because constantly increasing, both the means and capacity for it: that the days of childhood and youth looked back to with regret as the happiest period of life, are in their frolicks and hilarity, like the playfulness and joy of kittens and lambs; and bear no comparison to the full enjoyment of the soul in maturer years.

I think your ideas about Lucy Searles are correct; Miss Lyon educated several of her nieces by lending them money to be repaid by their own earnings: it is certainly very desirable that whatever help or facilities are afforded, that the spirit of independence or rather self-dependence should be fostered: perhaps we needs have no fears on that score for that kind of pride, if it be proper to call it so, is not lacking in our family generally; their mother and grandmother by no means forming an exception.

I am scribbling off this letter very fast without poor ink which is one reason it looks so bad, - another is I am writing by the side of one poor tallow candle. I promised to make some calls this evening expect our company along every min ute; want to mail this tomorrow morning, so shall not try to fill the whole sheet this time. I think you and Lucy must have nice times together wish I was there too. Congratulate on your call from Gen. Todington. And when he next doth make a call May I be there to see.

Miss [illegible] looks at things on their merry and [illegible] [illegible] side and we have a world of private fun about our 'Spotted head' (Mr. Johnson) whose ways and doings afford us amusement now and then. he is very 'righteous' in all his doings, desirous of taking all responsibility [illegible] himself. I have just returned from a call on an English family an old lady with two daughters music teachers and a son who left Eng. about two years ago, has a wife and large family there - seems to be doing nothing here but had a ponderous scrap book containing curious documents, abundance of fine pictures autographs of distinguished men &c. We had stormy weather all last month, but for a few days the air has been fine, moderate, clear, and the sky unclouded.

What are they doing at Milo about preaching and how much do they have. School goes about as usual. My French classes are quite popular I believe, it had been studied very little before I came now there is quite a rage for it. Mariette Rumsey talks of going to school here next term.

The Rumsey's are truly friendly to me with old Mr. Rumsey I am a special favorite. At church Miss Woodbury and myself depend upon civility for a seat. All the ministers here are having donation parties; we shall be expected to go I suppose but I feel little inclination. Do write often a long letter if you can a short one if you must but do write. This is a shocking letter I shall have to seal it up to night for if I look at it by daylight. I fear I should put it in the fire instead of sending it.

Westfield
March 28 1852

Westfield March 28th [illegible]

Dear Brother and Lucy, [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] to scribble off a [illegible] letter

[illegible] several days: The various [illegible] of your letters,
so interesting, I would [illegible] about; speaking
of Charles, his two boys, how much I want to see them.
[illegible] glad I am that he enjoys so much [illegible] happiness:
of Almeda and her children the importance of a present
[illegible] course and right habits for them to fit them to act
their part: — of Lucy, school, fitting dress for her which
I should enjoy having a hand in: — of the new house
too, of Mother's staying at Bangor and especially of
your health but without attempting to write anything
about all these things about which I should so love to
talk with you, I will first be quite an egotist, and tell
over all I can think of respecting my humble self. having
since my last, experienced the tedious parade of
an examination and the delightful freedom and leisure,
of a week's vacation, during which I fitted and made a
dress for myself, a pretty all wool [illegible] of which I send
a bit that you may see [illegible] pretty it is [illegible] I [illegible]
but it seemed a little juvenile for such me, but it is a very
becoming colour for me and pink is [illegible] to be much
worn by adults as well as children. Just before and during
vacation [illegible] hostess, [illegible] Allis, invited companies
of 20 to 30 or more several [illegible], including the chief ones

we were invited out some, and so, you may well suppose, the few precious days passed away like a dream: in the mean time (i.e.) a day or two before school closed the knowledge of a vacant situation in the High School at Fitchburg came to me through Miss Woodbury whose brother is one of the committee a most desirable place since with much less of care and responsibility a dollar per week more salary is given and so near home too, but when I first got the information of it, the place was to be filled in two weeks while in one week the term here was to commence, you know I am not prone to be lacking in prompt acting, so in this case, I forwarded an application with testimonials, to the chairman of the Committee offering to go by the middle of April, without any expectation however of being sent for for it would be a rare conjuncture indeed if in old Mass. teachers enough were not ready — a polite answer came back stating that the election was made before my letter was received: — from its tenor, as well as the letter in relation to it from Miss Wo. brother, I infer I should have stood fair to obtain the situation had my application been earlier: it may open a way at some future time. During last term I was much tried with the administration in school, of our 'speaked head'; — so lax and injudicious, I felt as if I must leave, that it would be impossible to preserve good discipline and order in my department, with opposing influences 'above', — the bad effects of which I could plainly see: my true friend, Argyle Rumsey in speaking of it said it would not do for me to stay till the school 'runs down' that though my reputation might not suffer here it would all arise but things seem better this term — the male department consists of but about twenty half of them steady young men teachers, fitting for college and the female department

of 40 young ladies quite takes the lead. Mr. Johnson is not liked by the [illegible] many of that class are out of school this term, so the care and discipline as well as influence of his part of the school are comparatively small, but I greatly fear that when they come in again as they will in the fall matters will be worse than ever. On this account I do not know whether to go on or leave, at the end of this term. If I return it will be with the intention of staying only until I can find an opening to go to the South where Miss W. will go with me, if Providence open the way. My purpose at all events now, is to step on the cars the first day of vacation and be with you as soon as possible. I mean however to visit the Falls and am earnestly hoping that Isaac will find it possible to come at that time and attend me there. [illegible] much I should enjoy it and the journey home with h[illegible], not to speak of the pleasure of being with you in all three for four weeks at least, perhaps longer. —

I felt very anxious about Eliab after hearing of his sickness — and do still though a letter received a day or two since informs me he is most well, I think there is great reason to fear that he will have permanent weakness of the back and that he [illegible] be too careful of himself, for a few years at least. I think he must study too hard, — his progress in French, is quite remarkable compared with my classes. I was made glad by a good, kind letter from Isaac this evening dated 13th Inst. in which he speaks somewhat doubtfully of coming [illegible] and I shall write him quite a beseeching letter about it. About a week ago, a young man took board here to attend school, stating that he fitted for college three or four years ago but was obliged from change of circumstances to give up studying and now wishes to pursue it. he has thrown us into quite a ferment of excitement, to know who or what he is and why he should be here, being plainly

I have read 'Home Influence' and 'Mother's Recompense,' by Grace Aguilar the Jewess - pretty good. — I have begun ~~the~~ [illegible] [illegible] but [illegible] [illegible]. I have a delightful book on hand 'Allston's Lectures on Art and Poetry'. Many thanks for the dear little bouquet - so nicely preserved. Miss Woodbury sits making herself a dress by my side, a [illegible], good, laughing girl [illegible] good in person and in mind and full of fun as [illegible] [illegible] yet with a fund of deep, quick, refined feeling. (She sends love) —

Do write me again soon my dear mother and sister. Love to all especially to Samuel and thanks to him for his promised letter & [illegible]

Mrs. Lucy H. Furber,
Care of J. W. Furber
Bangor
Me.

a gentleman acquainted with the world, too literary & have been in business apparently [illegible] very [illegible] in a collegian and as if from Cambridge. He wanted to commit himself to go on the coast, trade to the best terms in New York [illegible] [illegible] and I believe (from his appearance [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] he is from the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] he is quite a romantic mystery in our little quiet home world.

Westfield
April 1852

I have been communing with in my thoughts my own dear Mother for some days past but not until I found time to take pen in hand.

It is as you well know not very unusual for me to feel hurried with much before me to accomplish, and the time out of school is not apt to hang heavy on my hands [illegible]. Now I have plenty to do in practising my new lessons of drawing, besides attending [illegible] and more than all [illegible] keeping [illegible] what I have to do [illegible] with [illegible], I [illegible] twice in the week, [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible] articles, by that means making my painting come to only 37 1/2 instead of 25 per week. Various school duties reading some and writing letters pretty well fill up the time, leaving less time than I could wish for recreation or walking. I make [illegible] and [illegible].

I rise now about five and usually retire before ten. The season has been cold and backward [illegible] that the most comfortable place has been in our chamber [illegible] a good fire, but [illegible] a few days

it has been warm, and vegetation has rapid-
-ly come forward; the peach trees are now in full blos-
-som, and so many of them in every garden that the whole village
looks gay, white, [illegible] and [illegible] bursting
-ing forth with beauty and fragrance: some smooth
fields of winter wheat, of most brilliant green can
be seen from our windows, and the leafy foliage
of the trees grows upon the sight from day to day.
— the gardens are mostly made in the village, and
look quite green and thrifty. I have taken but one
walk since last winter ~~and~~ that was one mild day in the
week [illegible] eight weeks ago, since which we
have had snow, and freezing weather; but now
I must sometimes indulge myself the grateful
and soothing influence of a walk among leafy
woods and fragrant bowers, budding trees and bloom-
-ing flowers. I do not think I have quite as much
buoyancy and energy as is usual for me, owing
probably to the sudden warm weather after a
long severe winter. How are you after the winter
of care and work? and how is Lucy? Eliab? Samuel?
[illegible]? [illegible] quite a comfortable little family to be sure

Lucy's last letter was short and contained fewer particulars about all the affairs, than is her wont to write:— it is a long time since you have written me, except merely a word or two:— a real good long letter from you would do me much good. Miss Wood receives at least five letters to my one, on an average; when she, not unfrequently takes three at a time from the office, I feel as if I wanted one too, very much but none comes.— I am making a new [illegible] [illegible] gingham to travel homeward in,— intend to have all preparations made beforehand so as to start as soon as school closes. I have written to Lucy about leaving here,— I have been wavering upon the subject for some time, may possibly of course decide differently yet. The pecuniary view forms the only inducement, an unworthy motive for a leading and chief one, and upon this ground I could do better at the South. The son of a lady that I am well acquainted with here, who married a cousin of Marcella Rumsey, has just gone to Georgia and taken a school; through him I can obtain a situation probably next winter if I wish it, or if not then, and then, providence will provide [illegible]

work to do, I have made several efforts to rest a while from teaching, [illegible] not succeeded in doing it so much as a year, before a way was pointed out for me to commence again with my 'life work', as Miss Knight calls it. It is evident that I was born to labour nor am I at all concerned but something will be put into my hands to do. I mean to keep in view one of two objects – secondary indeed to higher considerations – but still proper to be looked after. One is to make more money in teaching, as I can do to go South – or else to have less responsibility and vexing care – to [illegible] by teaching a small part of the year, or taking scholars only or mainly in French, ~~Drawing~~, or giving lessons in the new painting which looks so well, because it requires so little time and pains comparatively to make a fine showing [illegible]. I might perhaps stay here a year longer loving [illegible] from the torment of [illegible] and mistrust getting into [illegible] for my efforts which are like [illegible] a [illegible], in which I must be [illegible] mightily. I can now [illegible] with [illegible], It is better for me [illegible] a while [illegible] to [illegible] a year or two [illegible] so I expect my life will pass a [illegible] part as in roaming the world but I want to stop and abide for a season before becoming a real cosmopolite: [illegible] I [illegible] stay at home with friends awhile [illegible], but it [illegible] you [illegible] too late, and look back with regret.

Bangor.
1852

Dear [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] had you a good large [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] was [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] plenty more for [illegible] dinners; also we have just finished our supper of nasty pudding [illegible] [illegible] did not get quite sufficiently [illegible] [illegible] the remnant [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to fry for breakfasts during the ensuing week. —

[illegible] received yours yesterday — [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] containing all [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] could [illegible].

We all [illegible] [illegible] about that sad accident of [illegible] [illegible] and are very anxious to hear further, I should not think he could live — [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] it is best for [illegible] to go [illegible] in the woods this winter; it will [illegible] [illegible] for him, he [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] at home [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] all got [illegible] for winter? Has Albina finished her sewing motto.

Have you been to see Almeda more than once? [illegible] have just received a letter from her; she writes [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

She [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] she [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] shelves [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] yesterday [illegible]
[illegible] two or three hours [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] intelligent, generous and good-hearted [illegible]
[illegible] for very [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] receiving a dozen silver teaspoons
which [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] which [illegible]. [illegible] has furnished
[illegible] a gilded chair, a silver lamp [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] it is a little [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] after my
thoughts [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]

read what [illegible]. We have had several books from the library. "Wilson's and Macauley's Essays, [illegible] two of Scott's novels. Wide Wide World from the [illegible] [illegible] we have not yet been able to [illegible] though it is nearly three weeks since we read the first. [illegible]

Sabbath [illegible]. It [illegible] [illegible] muddy. I went to the hall this forenoon heard a [illegible] by Wheeler a friend and favourite of Isaac's; his sermon was truly a fine production. [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] A perfect man in this sense not free from [illegible] — Job was said by God to be perfect in his ways yet he says, "Behold I am vile" — but one in whom the outward and inward [illegible] developed. Each part too requires its full and due development: each grace to be active and duly cultivated — not select some sunny place in [illegible] the [illegible] without culture our [illegible] in which we are most likely to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] sought [illegible] — A missing grace [illegible] [illegible] fault but a blemishing [illegible] [illegible]

Dear Sister, I must [illegible] to you [illegible]
[illegible] - if [illegible] writing [illegible]
[illegible] does not understand [illegible] greater [illegible].
You see we are in serious earnest about the [illegible]
we would [illegible] as see you [illegible] in all [illegible]
feel differently about it. We [illegible]
ready - it will probably make more [illegible]
You know there are a great many things that you can
remember that we know nothing about, at least that
you can tell enough of so that we can make up the
rest nicely. So please remember some of your [illegible]
and conversations - you sisters together - all about pick-
ing wool or spinning flax or anything - what Cousin
Louisa [illegible] sayings & Aunt Williams [illegible] you
girls together about your work - your [illegible]
and doings &c. &c. We are very anxious for you to come [illegible]
and enter upon the work with us - you can help us much.
You see 'tis a serious business - ever the making of one's
fortune, as [illegible] have to [illegible]!
When I come, which I hope will be the very first of sleigh-
ing, I will bring what we have and read to you - but
the important thing is for the whole matter to be kept
a profound secret from all but yourself and Aunt [illegible]
Samuel & [illegible] don't know [illegible]
for me to go up & make my visit in [illegible]
first of sleighing, then for you to [illegible] with me, or
as soon [illegible] as you can, & stay the rest of the
winter or spring - and after you are here [illegible] to go

and [illegible] is her place. I will send my
rugs (as the [illegible] which [illegible]
did very much in the last spring) [illegible] good
opportunity. [illegible] how much [illegible] if it will take
[illegible] let me know the [illegible] you sent which I did not
use. I also [illegible] in [illegible] and [illegible]
[illegible] could have [illegible]

Bangor
Dec. 1852

Lucy and I [illegible] to see you [illegible] you [illegible]

known only [illegible] letter [illegible] from you Lucy and I [illegible]

[illegible]

disappointed and also [illegible]

[illegible]

place and circumstances [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

enlivened by the [illegible] interesting [illegible]

[illegible]

Elizabeth [illegible]

Elyria

Sept 13 1853

Elyria Sept 1[illegible]

Mother

I am in some doubt whether to send this to [illegible] or to direct to Bangor to await your return there. We ought to have made some [illegible] arrangement about directing letters so as to know that one would reach you readily but as we did not I think I had best direct this to the care of [illegible] [illegible] you will get it some time before you leave for home. Oh I have a great deal to say to you, & do so wish I could see you; I received a letter from Isaac last week urging me most [illegible] to spend the winter there, saying he would gladly pay my expenses, board, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. I have written [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] that no place is ready for me there — Miss Bright speaks discouragingly in regard to any good opening. Mr. Johnston had not returned when she wrote [illegible] answered [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] not [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] nothing more [illegible] said about it.

Providence has appointed me another mission: it is wonderful to me how strangely, yet how surely I have been, as it were, borne along on the current of events, to be brought to a particular [illegible] [illegible].

It seems Mrs. [illegible] had a meaning in her [illegible], though I knew, nor thought nothing of it [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] lest it should [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] told to me' — A friend of Mr. Hopkins, living here, a very prominent & reliable man in his church, lost his wife last winter. Mrs. H. was with her much, day and night, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] & very efficient, a [illegible] [illegible] & [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], and, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to think of getting another companion, inquired of them who they knew, saying that he should never marry from mere convenience, but only on the foundation of mutual regard and [illegible], — [illegible] [illegible] that just before Mr. Hopkins had been [illegible] [illegible] at [illegible], — had spoken of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible], & [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], with [illegible] [illegible] Mrs. H. told him she would write & [illegible] [illegible] visit here & he could get acquainted without any [illegible] on my part, for that if I knew anything about it I should be likely to [illegible] [illegible] without [illegible]; so, it [illegible] he quite fixed his mind upon seeing me, [illegible] & [illegible] for my appearance; — [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] before I got here) [illegible] — he called the first [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], has kept calling, [illegible] and I have rode with him around the country, and now, — though [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] — [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I feel satisfied that it is all by the direction of Providence. You know that I should not be [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] sufficient grounds [illegible] [illegible]. I am sure you

can trust me that I should never accept a situation offered me merely because it might bring me a "good settlement" ("a good home"). With regard to the short acquaintance:– he is an old resident of the place – well known, his character & standing established & eminently before the world ~~[illegible]~~ On the other hand I had been in Mr. Hopkins' family two years, & feel that they know me. I am astonished at the high estimate they place upon me & the amount of affectionate interest they take in me. Now as to the man himself. He is indifferently called Judge De Witt, & Dr. De Witt, both titles belonging to him: he is a native of Vermont, educated at Hanover & studied medicine with [illegible] of [illegible] – was for many years a practising physician though not recently, is connected with rail road business, is president of the Bank here & has an old established apothecary's store. So much in his business. He is tall (six feet) rather elegant in figure & mien very gentlemanly, converses well on all subjects with much sincerity of manner & quite a dignified bearing & every thing about him speaks of the real & unaffected in character & manner: it has however been a very trying question to me & many of my nights have been almost as wakeful as the day, but now all is clear – I am satisfied & happy in the lot & portion provided for me so unexpectedly – in the blessing (for so I truly think it) my Heavenly Father has given me in this new friend. The consummation is to come sooner than

than I could wish. & it is with reluctance I have consented as to the imperative necessity of circumstances, Mr. Hopkins' people (my home & protectors) are obliged to move from this house by the first of next month. they are not certain of finding any other, & may be obliged to board till they can at last find one — My position in the present state of things is just such as to be more embarrassing the longer it is; Emily Anne, can remain only during this month & it is very desirable for me to have one friend with me besides the family here; — the important day is not fixed though the week is, viz. the last of this month, scarcely three weeks distant; & I cannot realize it — and none of my near friends present! but so it is judged best.

I have written to Elias to send me a draft for 40. or 50 dolls. — am going to Cleveland (24 miles) to make some purchases in a day or two — a silk dress, gloves &c.

The 'tour' proposed is to see Isaac! only think of that! I am delighted enough with it, I feel that it will be a great relief & comfort to me to have one of the family see him <u>here</u>; — besides the great pleasure of seeing Isaac's children & the dear baby. Dr. DeWitt is ten or twelve years my senior, has two little daughters 13 & 7 years old. The home to which I am going, is a handsome brick house painted red, well furnished, a splendid piano, rich carpets & every thing comfortable, circumstances above want. The grounds attached to the house, extend back to the next street, & contain abundance of choice fruit, grapes by the barrel of rare varieties, peaches quinces &c &c. all this however would weigh little against the <u>person</u> himself in my judgment I feel sure

I charge you Mother not to show this letter to any body you may <u>tell</u> the news it contains but I have written

Elyria
Sept. 29 53.

I am very glad to hear from you before I leave here - have a great deal to say, but no time to say it, for it is almost six o'clock, & I am packing, one trunk for my journey the other to leave here to be taken to the other end of the street to what seems now a strange house - my future home. Tomorrow is the day at ten - the cars leave 11 p.m. I expect to reach Syracuse Monday stay there a day then visit Dr. De Witt's friends in Penn. Princeton & Albany from there take the nearest route to Isaac's place. I have written him so he is expecting us & he shall write you every particular. I do not wonder you think it sudden, it seems so to me I can hardly realize it. I knew you would feel some anxiety but I do believe you need not. I cannot conceive what I could reasonably ask more favorable if such change is to be made - I have seen this new friend almost every day several hours at a time - think I have experience enough to appreciate character in some good degree & you may be assured that external advantages would not tempt me without the right qualities of mind & heart. My own convictions of the direct leadings of Providence in this matter [as it seems to me?] [illegible]

are [illegible] by similar [illegible] [illegible] on his part. Every thing has been made [illegible] & easy - the past [illegible] & Mrs Hopkins [illegible] [illegible] friends. Emily [illegible] has been a comfort [illegible] & [illegible] [illegible] than I can [illegible]; it has been a trying time - much to think of - [illegible]. [illegible] to Cleveland a week ago last Friday [illegible] purchased a silk for $20. a [illegible] $5 1/2 under[illegible] [illegible] Mrs. Hopkins fitted my dress, I made it last week; it fits finely, looks well; [illegible] send a piece of it. I purchased too a plain white [illegible] straw [illegible] with neat white ribbon, & mean to take my new [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] out [illegible]. I have finished embroidering [illegible] cap [illegible] [illegible] it looks beautifully. My new silk is not how-ever the wedding dress, for we are to stand up in travel-ing [illegible] - My [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] will [illegible] my purpose with [illegible] [illegible]-under sleeves [illegible] gloves [illegible]. The cake Mrs. H. has procured made [illegible], 12 pounds at $3,00: Cards are already directed [illegible] to be mailed tomorrow. I have received some elegant presents of jewelry which I must name [illegible] a real diamond ring perfectly beautiful; a locket for daguerreotypes, with [illegible] chain [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] hardly [illegible] [illegible] to wear so much, but it is his choice [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] he [illegible] a diamond pin & elegant watch [illegible] through [illegible] from being thrown in [illegible] of [illegible] appointments

Elyria
Oct. 30 1853

Elyria Oct. 30 [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Dear Mother

Your last good letter arrived in due season & I was truly glad of it. I had begun to wonder where you were, whether you had returned & why did not write. It seems then that your visit to the old place was not altogether pleasant — that Charles did not go at all — I fear he never will now; you did not mention many particulars about Aunt [illegible], & [illegible], his wife & children — I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] uncle [illegible] at all. I am glad you [illegible] so long with Aunt Esther, wish you would write more of her health, her [illegible] & state generally, & of Joanna Gibson.

Why did you not give yourself time in Boston to see the Mr [illegible]'s? You may never see a more favourable time, for though you may very probably pass through Boston many times again, it may not be convenient to stop. I am glad to hear that Charles has accomplished so much on the house hope I shall see all the improvements next summer. Much love to Charles & Albina & to the wee ones; there is no need of my writing particularly to them too, this time, but when you have gone I will endeavour to do my part. I have only one [illegible] child left. Albina [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] had,

and though I have not so much head work to
do, I find enough to occupy my attention.
It is the season of the year when there is always
something to do to prepare for winter & much in
the children's 'fixings' had been left for my direc-
tion so I have necessarily been pretty busy since
our return from the journey. I wrote a full account
of our excursion with the disappointment
about visiting Isaac in a letter to Lucy sup-
pose it probable that you have seen it. Mr. De
Witt feels more troubled about I believe than
I do, much as my heart was set upon it doubt-
less it was all for the best that we were prevented
from fulfilling our intentions in the matter. I
have written to Isaac but not heard from him
since. It was two weeks last Thursday since we
arrived at home. At first all was strange to me &
I felt ~~very [illegible]~~ much less like the mistress of the
mansion than as a mere boarder or stranger
in it. Nothing has been wanting to make me feel at
home & gradually the feeling of appropriation
comes, first & foremost in respect to my husband
— children too & the house with its arrangements;
the appointments of which generally are quite to my
taste & you know what that implies. The faithful
efficient German girl relieves me entirely
from household care indeed she is more a house
keeper than common help, for she keeps everything

along, quite nice cake for the table & excellent pies, fruit &c.
I have not found it needful to give a single direction.
except when she comes to ask me how I will have
this or that. I shall gradually take a little more
oversight than I have hitherto done but as yet I
only know ~~when~~ I take my place at the table, what is
to be the fare. She has been in the family four years, &
claims some privileges, sits at table when there is
not company, sometimes sits with us evenings: she
is not however intrusive at all, & belongs to a respect-
able family. Went to Cleveland yesterday — 24 miles
east — started in the cars at 9½ returned at 3½
was busy enough shopping during the
interim. bought myself a Thibet dress, dark
green, & long merino scarf white ground, $3.00
material for bonnets for my girls; scarfs &c. We
bought some silver too on my account — Doz. tea-
spoons 4 table, & ½ doz silver forks. We did intend to
go a journey of 60 miles south to visit his married sisters, today
but have concluded to defer it a few days. I have
so much to do just now in sewing that I know
not how to spare a moment's time — am just finish-
ing a pair of nice shirts — the loss of his trunk has made
him short — have dresses & cloaks to make for the girls
— my own dress — aprons, stockings to knit &c. The
good clever maiden sister is soon going away,
to spend the winter — My husband is so good
so kind so noble he reads to me evenings, does

every thing that it is possible for a man to do to promote my happiness & dear Mother I am very happy - I trust truly thankful for the comforts & unnumbered blessings which surround me. I do wish you could look in upon me in our room which is in a wing of the house: it opens from the middle room (the family dining & sitting room). - It is a large room looking on the street some evergreen & cherry trees in front of the windows in the yard: on the opposite side of the room are two large closets - one appropriated to the girls' wardrobe the other to us between them a door opens into a bathing room quite commodious with bathing boat pump, of soft water stove & boiler to heat water with plenty of room. - In our room we have a fire constantly. It contains besides a bed a bureau sofa & handsome wash stand (semicircular front) all of mahogany two rocking chairs - one a low sewing chair cane seat like Mary's. - Secretary & bookcase & my book-shelves. I mean to write Almeda very soon also, [illegible] but she owes me a letter on all accounts. I have sent her my card & she ought to make her call in the shape of a letter - until she owes a letter. Do write soon all of you.

in haste Your affectionate daughter E. A. [illegible]

Elyria
Dec. 1853

Mother

Yours dated a month since came duly to hand & would have been answered sooner but I daily expected to hear again respecting Charles' coming & really began to fear from the delay that Chas & Maria had concluded to come here — Maria to stay with me while he should perhaps go farther & look around a little. Charles came at last a week ago last Sat. eve. (i.e. 17th Dec.) he staid till Tuesday morning when the Doctor & I accompanied him to Cleveland on his way — he might just as well have proceeded from here without going back to Cleveland but they gave him wrong directions there so he left his trunk & India rubber coat in the depot & thought it best to go back there to be sure of no mistake — the additional expense was but seventy cents. We were very glad to see him, & he seemed to enjoy his stay here — attended church with us & was much interested in Mr. Hopkins. he & Mrs. H. called in to see him on Mond. eve. Mond. forenoon he & the doctor rode around the country & C. was much delighted with the fine appearance productiveness &c. the growth of timber & other evidences of good soil & favorable farming privileges. C. I think feels

Please direct simply to Mrs. E. P. DeWitt.

[illegible]

Gilman's death much. he seemed in a pe-
culiarly serious solemn frame of mind.
He probably reached Du Quoin last Friday or Sat. unless something extraordinary prevented. I am glad he has gone there to have a view & knowledge of the great West but I fear he will be too much governed by the fear of spending too much money as he always has been in great matters to derive as much benefit from this tour as he ought.
He should have had a new suit of clothes throughout - any man of any pretensions to respectability ought to be able to be decently dressed when occasion requires even at home & away from home where external appearance is the thing one is judged by; it is in my opinion money out of pocket rather than in, to neglect to appear among men & strangers in the customary plight that others do: I fear he will be rather shabby before winter is out for however much out of the world Texas is, he is doubtless among gentlemen more or less & facilities for buying are not found there as at the east. You did not mention where & how you expect to spend the winter. We have snow now & sleighs are running but until within a week the weather has not been cold enough to freeze. I have not heard a word from Lucy for a long time Maria too owes me a letter I am quite anxious to hear. I am very well & happy & quite busy as usual. We have had

Elyria
Jan. 6 1854

Elyria Jan. 6th/54.

Dear Mother & Sister Almeda:

I write a few lines to you both together because I infer from Lucy's lett[illegible], that Mother is at Brownsville: ~~her~~ Lucy's letter a good long one, was received about two weeks ago. I was glad to learn that Lizzie was still there: she sent some paper dolls to my little girls which caused quite an ecstasy of delight.— I think it may be of lasting benefit to Lizzie to be there with Lucy & Maria & she will be well cared for, I suppose it is rather hard for you to spare her so long. Why have you not written me a word yet — I want to know how you are prospering in health spirits circumstances— — in body & estate & I want to hear from James whether he is attending school & where; & of your husband & all the circle around you. How glad I am now that I could, & did spend so long time with you last summer. I wrote a letter to you mother just after Charles left us: you don't know how much good his coming has done me & my good doctor was right gratified to have him come & see how I am situated so as [illegible] just to the rest he says he feels a little awkward to enter a family as he had done that all he could do now would be to take me on his arm & come to

& say "here I am you must receive me whether you will or no". — He says moreover that he knows I have a good mother & expresses the wish often to have you come here & see us. I find in him all I anticipated & a thousand times more. I do not know how I could desire any addition to my cup of earthly blessings or any thing to want except to be nearer you all so as to see you oftener than I can now expect to do. I have as yet found much less that is difficult or unpleasant in the management of the children — they seem to come to me depend on me & love me almost as if I was indeed their mother. they obey me cheerfully are perfectly familiar with me, more so indeed than with their father & love to be with me: they were quite delighted to have "uncle Charles" come for they take a great interest in their new relations. I was truly glad of your few words of advice in your last & wish for more, will endeavour to use & profit by them. I received a letter from Nettie a few days since & a short one from Charles: he arrived in safety the same week he left us, spent part of a day at St Louis saw Mr Moses Greenleaf at Alton: the morning she wrote he & Isaac had started off together upon their business in fine spirits: perhaps you will hear directly before this reaches you. I must not write longer as this cannot go today. do write me good long letters frequently, you owe me two now. Daughter Anna.

I [illegible] whiten my sheet unwillingly, as if for publication cannot have time to fill it out. I don't know what I am going to do with my 'monument' & will give it up to Fanny all right & little if she will do anything with it. I have to be pretty busy with all the etceteras of my expensive work basket. We have had sleighing for two weeks until now the snow is all gone; I have had two rides in a little cutter just big enough for two! I had [myself] a dinner party at Christmas time my girl did the whole with some directions from me & it was finely got up. Turkey plum pudding with cold sauce two kinds pies apples grapes. I got all the linen at 50¢, napkins at 2.00 & a doz. doylies at 1.00 [illegible] nice.

Elyria March 14th /64

My dear Mother

Thank you very much for your good letter written in Feb by the date. I was very glad to get it: it seemed a long time that I had not heard a word from you. I was quite surprised to learn you were at Milo again: no doubt it will be a great comfort to Charles to know you are there but you could be so much more comfortable & in many respects so much more happy at Bangor during the cold weather that I felt really sorry to have you go back. The only satisfaction is that you are doing more good: are more needed at Milo. We have already planned to have you accompany us home when we go, to stay as long as you wish, there would be no difficulty in returning any time that you desired: Somebody is going east every month; so if you became homesick or discontented you would not be obliged to stay. I have just written to Lucy. her last to me was dated Feb. 21st. I am hoping every day to hear from Nellie & know when she thinks of coming here. I fear her health is much poorer than she [illegible] of her letters

My love to Jamie. tell him to set his aim high & in every thing he has to do do it as well as he can: then he will make a man. Let him remember, that, as is the boy so will be the man; I feel much interest in him — much desire that he should make a good man a superior man as he can do & ought to do. above all that he be truly good that he should seek & obtain the blessing of God without which he will be poor indeed. I am sorry to hear that Jane is no better yet. I do not know what will become of her & she has [illegible]

[illegible]

would seem to imply. There is danger I am afraid that her continued debility & predisposition to weak lungs will throw her into consumption. She will need to be very careful, not to feel injuriously, the transition from the enervating, relaxing climate of southern Illinois, to the bracing breezes of the New Hampshire hills.

I have had quite a house full of company the past week. Emily Cochran & her sister are here spending a week or two or three by invitation: they were alone in their house this winter their parents have gone for the winter to Clintonville N.Y. where he is preaching so the girls could leave as well as not to make some visits; we find it pleasant to have them here, as well as profitable to the children; they are pious girls, highly educated & refined, sincere & loving. You would like them much. they have an excellent mother (the doctor's standard). Their father is an old college friend of Dr. Pomeroy. Dr Converse (brother of the former wife) has been here a week, gone on now to Boston to buy goods; has left his little daughter 13 years old, to stay till he returns. He is from Princeton Illinois, quite wealthy - an excellent man - we visited him last fall. - Besides these, it happened that Mr. & Mrs. Leavitt [illegible] came here to stay a few days when

Elyria
March 14 54

Anne March 1854

moving, for he is dismissed from this church & is just about leaving the place. They had more claims on us than any one else to invite them, which would have been done with the greatest pleasure & convenience had it been at any other time; as it was we got along very well. have had quite a merry social time with all the six visitors here together in a week. My doctor has been most sick for several days with a bad cold & cough. I am perfectly well, & very happy.

My little girls are certainly good children full of affection towards me & seem like my own. I can see improvement in them in several respects since my coming which is very gratifying to me, as well as to their father. Every thing about my house goes on just as usual, I have had quite a respite in sewing for a few weeks, but am now about beginning again in good earnest, so as to get the spring "fixings" along betimes. If Hattie goes with us east, I shall need to do more sewing for her than otherwise. tomorrow I expect a sewing woman to stay two or three days & help me make the doctor a double gown, myself a morning dress & some spring de laines for the children. I wish you would write me particularly about Charles

he only wrote me a few words just after reaching the place & I have heard nothing since. When does he expect to return? I have been thinking that Horace would want him to stay there while he comes on with Lizzie, but I have heard nothing so know nothing. I am sorry to hear of Mr. & Mrs. Sargent's illness; my regards to them, and to others who inquire for me. Love to Albina. I have thought much of her this winter in her new experience of dwelling alone without a strong arm to lean on; let her seek wisdom & strength from the right source and all will be well. Tell Charlie that I have not forgotten him & hope he will remember aunt Anna & that Libby is just one year and a half older than he is & I hope she will sometime come to see him. I hope he is a very good boy now father is gone & kind to John & his little sister. Do be careful of your health my dear mother not expose yourself to the severe cold but have things comfortable: do let washings alone & hard work, you can do more good even to others by your care over the children and sewing, planning &c. It seems to me you had best avoid the raw, cold bleak spring at Bangor & so return to Milo just in time to receive us when we come so as to be ready for us you know. With much love to all your affectionate daughter Anna.

[illegible] I mean to write Almedia [illegible] & I want it answered at once; [illegible] the house; she needs me there to help her arrange & fix it up. [illegible]

that just came to hand.

How strange it seems to read in your letter about the snow! ...now is all blocked up – and so many feet of snow. I have it is true, seen a little snow the past winter but only for a day or two at a time, indeed I can scarcely make it seem to me that there has been any winter. not more than three or four days through the entire winter has the thermometer been as low as zero.

This afternoon I have been across the bridge on the 'point', the opposite bank of the river, and gathered spring beauties and Arbutis, the grass is quite green, trees thick with swelling buds,

June Apl. 1857

In our delightful garden,
the strawberry vines look green
and flourishing, the pie plant
shows its crown above the ground
raspberry (yellow & black cultivated) &
currant bushes look bright, and
cherry & other fruit trees seem just
ready to bud into leaves. Yesterday
the air was so warm that it was
almost uncomfortable without
a fire - a breezy, dry, & warm
south wind which though pleas-
ant & spring-like, is somewhat
exhausting to strength and
energy: to day it is cooler, but
balmy & mild. My health is excel-
lent: we are getting along
just as usual; The doctor has had
a very severe cold that made him
quite sick for a week or two: I think
colds prevail here quite as much
as in the cold climate of Maine
- the sudden changes are perhaps
as trying to the health and con-

[illegible] very glad he is learning how to read so well: I
[illegible] little girl is a year & half older
[illegible]ed, is studying arithmetic a little. Kisses for all.

(ter) the time to show for strength of charac-
[illegible]ting (patiently doing her duty the while) in Him
in whom we live & move.

[illegible] ... much be [illegible] ... [illegible]
My love to Mrs. [illegible] ... [illegible]

-stitution here in the vicinity of the
lake and at the severity of cold in
[illegible]; an influenza has prevail-
ed here lasting frequently some
weeks - the doctor is not yet well
his cold has troubled him the last six
weeks; his health is generally very
good. I have had constant visitors
in the family for the last two months,
not less than three at a time till this
week; now have staying with us a
cousin of the children a girl of 13 years
very pleasant, quiet amiable girl

Tomorrow we expect another inmate;
I believe I wrote you that Mr. Hopkins
had been dismissed from this church;
- the family have all left this place
now, we have been without a pas-
tor nearly two months - several
sabbaths without preaching;
Mr. Kilburn a student & tutor from
Lane Seminary Cincinnati is
coming to spend some weeks, per-
haps months as a candidate, and

them, he is; the has just learned to read [illegible]
[illegible] read them a little for him to read, [illegible]
Give my love to Charlie; tell him I am [illegible]

to take up his abode with us
for a week or two at least, until
a suitable boarding place
is found for him. He has
preached once for us and we
like him; it will be pleasant
having him in the family, tho'
it will add some to my cares.
I begin to accumulate ma-
terials for my workbasket pretty
rapidly now - preparing to go
east. Oh, if you were here how much
good you could do me in helping me
fit the children's dresses and a thous-
and other things. Sometime in the
course of the season I must make
some new pillows - some new ticks
for beds &c: & I don't know much a-
bout such matters - quite out of my
line of business. I venture notwith-
standing your letter to look forward to
your being here next fall to help me
and tell me how to manage these things,
and help us eat peaches & grapes. I have

June
Elyria
May 29th 54

Elyria May 29th 54

Dear Brother

Yours of 10th Inst.
was received just one week after
date. I had begun to wonder
why you did not write - was very
glad to hear from you. I felt some
anxiety about the storms & freshets
reading so much of them all over
the country. we have had no experi-
ence of cold or storms more than
usual: - have had spring these
two months. It sounds odd to
read in your letter of snow drifts
when here vegetation is out in all its
beauty and budding luxuriance
cherries currants & strawberries
of considerable size shewing from
in of ~~[illegible]~~ refrigerator long and
grass thick & high and all tasseled
out ripe enough to gather for

for [illegible]. It is in our garden &
most beautiful it looks. I wish
you was here to walk with me in
it this mild balmy evening hear
the multitude of birds and see the
things grow. A yellow rose bush is
in blossom others almost ready,
peonies red, white & pink & [illegible].
You would enjoy it much after
the long cold winter you have ex-
perienced! The time has seemed longer
and less pleasant to you, doubtless
as well as Albina, because Charles
has been away but I think it is
very fortunate that Walter had a
[illegible] be there and stay till [illegible] came.
You need have no fears that we
shall not all of us enjoy our visit
there; we are coming now knowing
[illegible] the [illegible] of the place:
The doctor does not expect to find
any thing very charming or in-
viting in the country, scenery &c.

I should not much wonder if he should find it a finer & more prosperous and desirable region than he imagines, he has to leave an opinion of rocky & barren New Eng. & especially old Maine.
Charles will be at home probably two or three weeks before we get there for we find it best to defer our journey till about a month later than we at first intended, on account of the children's having the measles: Hattie has just got well over them; was pretty sick: - it is time for Libby to have them in a day or two: some other things too delay us, but on the whole I am glad we do put it off. We mean to start so as to be in Boston of the 'Fourth,' then proceed to Maine. As to Isaac & family, I suppose you will know before this reaches you, much more about ~~their~~ their movements

than I can tell, for I only know
that they left here, two weeks ago to-
night, & reached Buffalo in safety
next morning. They thought some
of going to Maine after a day or two
at N. Y. & Antoinette & baby remain
there & make her visit there, just so as
to be there while we are, & especially
so as to return to Dumbarton under our escort, as we intend coming back
that way, so as to visit the White
Hills on our way, but I doubt much
if her mother will permit it, because
she really is not able to take care
of their boy, who is a pretty little fellow.
Isaac poor fellow is dreadfully
driven for time & I fear will exert
himself too much when he returns
& finds so much accumulated bus-
iness on his hands. You must not
wonder if you do not see him now
at Uncle a Brownville I suppose he
ought not to take the time and he
expects to be through & go east in the
fall, perhaps for the winter. I fear
[illegible] is worse she has not written me
for a long time owes me two letters
Charlotte

Anne
July 12th 1854 (12th
Bangor, Wednes. Morn.

Dear Mother

We got here last Frid. somewhat fatigued with the journey & the extreme heat of the weather. We intend to stay here this week - go up to Milo probably next Wednes. or Thurs. We think it best on every account to make our visit here first; Nettie thinks of going to N. H. next Monday - Eliab thinks some of going to Boston - if not she feels safe in travelling that distance with Sabra. She would not think it best to go again to Milo now, but wait till Isaac comes to go with her.

The folks expect you to come back here with us. Percie is not very well, & Lucy is most sick with so much to do & no good help. We shall want too, to take you with us to Brownville so as to be together as long as possible. We intend

A letter from Horace received to day says they are very well & that Charles concludes to stay a little longer. will not come before next month or [illegible]

to spend about a week at the two places mostly perhaps this time at Brownville then return and immediately start homeward: the time seems very short to me & yet we shall be gone from home six weeks or more by the time we reach Elyria. Lucy had company yesterday Dr. Shepherd & wife & [illegible]. & the student Mr Smith to day, Samuel & Lucy the doctor & my self & Hattie & Nettie intend a ride to Old town & Mt Hope. Tomorrow Mr. Jewlow's people are to be invited here with Mr. & Mrs. Blood. Cannot you get [illegible] to Almeda so that she may be 'ready' for us you know: I feel as if it is rather a poor time to visit there just at hay time but don't see as we can help it very well. — We have found a good washerwoman who did our large wash (Lucy's & mine) yesterday & is here to iron to day.

Elyria
Sept 15 1854

Elyria Sept. 15th

Dear Mother Lucy & all the rest of the dear people
We were very glad to get a letter from you last evening. I have thought of you almost continually the last week. Anxious to know how you all are. Your letter rejoiced our hearts in giving us such good report of the sick & convalescent. We are so glad that you are doing something for poor little Persie. The doctor I find felt a great deal of concern about him when we were there. he saw his state & knew the danger yet did not feel at liberty to say much, feared that his suggestions would seem like interference while yet he knew perfectly well that it was important to health & even life to apply speedy & active remedy. he is relieved that he is now under treatment by a physician who understands his case - says he needs internal alteratives of such kind as is found to work most favorably & external friction of the skin. an intimate connection & sympathy between the capillaries of the skin & those of the liver the reason his food does not nourish him the secretions of the liver are not healthy no bile in his stools in order to [illegible] healthy action he should be rubbed with alcohol two or three times a day wet with it freely with cloth or sponge then a strong hand should rub the skin till it burns & is all in a glow & especially

So write Pen all of you: tell particulars about Persie & what you are doing for him. [illegible] Charley is growing. Mary [illegible] write [illegible] love to [illegible] I will write [illegible] to [illegible] Mother [illegible] the [illegible] must be careful. we are all pretty well. returned last night [illegible]

the spirit column to be thus rubbed. alcohol is better than brandy because more stimulating. I write his remarks in conversation with me about Perrie I suppose he would not be exactly pleased to have me volunteer his medical advice: — physicians you know are rather sensitive on this point; — but I feel so much anxiety for him so desirous not to have any more precious time lost without effort for his cure: there is probably great danger in his case — that I cannot help writing as I have. The Dr. has no confidence in Maria's Sitz baths - says they are more likely to injure than benefit that she has a fine constitution that her cholera morbus turn when we were there was probably of more benefit to her than __any thing else__. You see I am again naughtily divulging secret & private remarks!!

The Dr. says Mother came near dying: it was the first stage of cholera. I do not wonder you were alarmed. It seems strange to me that one of so healthy a habit of body should be so suddenly & violently attacked. I should like much to see the little Energine - wish I could step in & see you Why do you write so discouragingly Mother about coming to Elyria? I do not want you to leave Perry while Perrie is so poorly but when the time comes I do want you should come & stay a good long time here & enjoy yourself. I had a good letter from Hattie about two weeks since. My letter must go now or wait another day

Affectionately Anna.

Elysian Cal. 10th/54.

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of a letter is [illegible] [illegible] so to I [illegible] [illegible] since you [illegible] I am thankful for that [illegible] in hope to [illegible] more [illegible]. [illegible] that [illegible] I was very [illegible] to receive. I appreciate the difficulty of her finding time now to write frequent long letters, but I do want to hear from you often — I am away off [illegible] [illegible] and see how you are all getting along. I feel anxious especially on account of little Percy. I have feared for him ever since we left there and I am not without fears still that I shall never see his sweet little face again.

Lucy did not speak of her own state of health in [illegible] — nor of yours particularly. I am afraid she will permanently injure her own health [illegible] her anxieties cares & labours night and day. —

We rejoice with you all that Eliab & Mallie are so favored & happy. 'Afflictions spring not from the dust' — neither do our special joys & blessings.

I hope Mallie will find time to write to me before long — very particular in respect to the incipient character & conduct of the new comer my niece Energine will be very interesting. [illegible] some of you write something about the brothers [illegible]

I hope I shall to day receive a letter from some of you. I want to hear often & particularly of [illegible]

I have written very frequently that we [illegible] not to lose the [illegible] [illegible] have been [illegible] for [illegible] weekly [illegible] much to [illegible] the time; [illegible] will [illegible] hope to write [illegible] more at leisure in a [illegible] a three weeks; little [illegible] get from from the east. I send to her for [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] to write [illegible] soon to [illegible] [illegible]

Love to the brothers.

Elyria

Oct. 10 1854

health. Almeda has not written me a word yet: I received a day or two since a good long letter from Isaac — quite wonderful for him, of late.

I need not mention any news of him for you have probably heard as recently as I have.

It is said Charles was coming home very soon. I hope he will come this way though I think he would certainly unless he can have a free pass in part over the other route which is not very unlikely. Still I can't bear the thought of his passing so near as that, without coming here. We are all very well: the children go to school — we are expecting Lewis's wife here now every day: with our little grandson. I am going to take pains to teach him to call me grand'ma

Did I write you that they have recently buried their youngest — a year old — of cholera infantum

A lady here has just buried her only one a sweet child three years old of dysentery; ending in dropsy of the brain; Both parents seem as if refusing to be comforted, it is a saying "their tears are in every part of the vale"? Does Ellen still remain so good? Our grapes are now in greatest perfection & abundance too: I am going to make some grape preserves — the weather permitting.

We have made 15 lbs. of peaches very nice, keeping them whole I mean & make fine quince marmalade.

I wish I could set before you a great plate full of our fine grapes.

Elyria
Dec. 1854

[illegible] Bell. He had returned but was [illegible] very glad to get [illegible] home. I was glad to see him looking so well in health and spirits. His western trip seems to have been beneficial to him. I should not wonder if his home should look a little uninviting, dreary & cold when he first arrived there; he [illegible] makes but a short stay only yesterday & to day. Thursday he must go [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] but [illegible] [illegible] greatly better than none. I write a few words by him because it will reach you sooner than by mail, [illegible] [illegible] to say only that our [illegible] well & [illegible] [illegible] enjoying the

I do not [illegible] from the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Affectionately [illegible]

blessing of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] in [illegible]
Charles can give you [illegible], if
you [illegible] him. I wish you [illegible]
[illegible] this winter [illegible]
it would [illegible] right for you to spend
[illegible] with us before a great
while. It would be very good if you
[illegible] yourself [illegible]
to [illegible] the first opportunity
that offers to make the journey.
If [illegible] gets well again next
spring or summer [illegible] you
& [illegible] with [illegible] make your [illegible]
[illegible] to come in here with them;
you [illegible] of a year, [illegible]
[illegible], at your [illegible]
and [illegible], and [illegible] to
[illegible] Samuel's coming [illegible]
[illegible]. Will not [illegible], [illegible] think?
The ground is covered with snow
[illegible] enough [illegible]
[illegible], but a little more than [illegible]

A week ago we had some
quite cold weather & considerable
snow, I went in a 'cutter' twenty
miles one morning saw drifts
by the side of the fences that
looked quite sublime, in one place
the snow was actually over the
fence: — very possibly we may
not have sleighing again for
the winter. I have been quite
busy ever since our return with
handling our small family & good
girl relieving me from almost all care of
household affairs, company for a few
hours, visits, sewing, knitting,
&c. &c. Besides full four weeks
steady writing to 'eke out' the
old 'book' the manuscript volume
into a decent size, according to
the request of the Publisher; Emily
[illegible] came here, worked hard
copying for two weeks and we
together made up 300 pages ad-
ditional.

it will probably be published next month. — we hurried to get it ready for Christmas & [illegible] but the Derby writes that it had to be postponed in consequence of the pressure of many market-able tales; doubtless it will be puffed out as full as a bladder to promote the sale; [illegible] the name of advertising thoroughly: The title calls it a 'true story,' the better to suit its narrative form; & enough of the incidents are true to save it from falsehood but the individual application is just as it happens. The whole matter of authorship is of course to remain a profound secret, known only to the family — Emily & I — Emily is concerned in it as well as myself & is to receive half the profits; it may sell, & may not at all: We are at no expense about it except letters & Express charges to get it to publisher.

I have filled nearly all my space with the matter & can only say more. Give much love to all: I have not forgotten that I owe Mollie a letter.

I do not - care in [illegible]

Elyria
Feb. 10 1855

[illegible] of [illegible]

Opportunity to [illegible] last [illegible]

[illegible] health [illegible]

[illegible] to have the [illegible] of business [illegible]

[illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] well. —

[illegible]

[illegible] particularly [illegible], but with the [illegible] think it was [illegible] from [illegible]

[illegible] in [illegible] that he [illegible] undertaking for him at his age to [illegible], especially with his young family [illegible] yet it seems as if he might be better situated but after all each place has its [illegible] the way one's life is [illegible]. The [illegible]

Clara

June 11 1855

Elgin June 11th 55,

[illegible]

I think your right to send or keep and 57 for dolls or to be Joseph Haven's little girl.

The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] left last week [illegible] [illegible] with
the [illegible] from [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
has returned home not [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] side,
though there was an universal desire for her to do
so. She has been a very pleasant inmate of [illegible]
family & her influence & example very bene-
ficial to the girls. ~~nevertheless~~ it is quite agreea-
ble for us to be again alone for a time - I have
had a sempstress here a week or so, & the [illegible]
[illegible] of my work basket have sensibly dimin-
ished. The Ladies of our Society are making se-
[illegible] efforts this summer in which of course
I must do my part; the daughter of a Home
Missionary [illegible] expects [illegible] a short [illegible] to go
to [illegible] she is [illegible] marrying a son of the [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] this young lady (Miss Tracy) formerly
taught a Seminary here so we are making up
a [illegible] for her underclothes, &c. which are to be made
[illegible] [illegible] Society has met every week, most [illegible]
[illegible] time & the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] - besides this we have had anoth-
er [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] quite unexpected, [illegible]
Pastor (Mr. Tilden) whose [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible],
[illegible] with a pair of fine boys & as their mother
had made only [illegible] preparation for the
advent of one the [illegible] counterpart of her wardrobe
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] provided (as a gratuity) & you

know many little stiches were required for the little garments: the material was given [illegible] the La-dies met one afternoon at our house to cut out & arrange; since then I have invited company (ten or twelve) on Miss Smith's account just before she left so you can judge a little how the days & weeks have passed with me of late: We have had three weeks of heavy rains – considerable injury to mills, bridges, crops in the vicinity by the rise of the river. I believe I mentioned something of it in my letter to Nettie. There is quite a contrast with us between this summer & last in the temperature thus far. We have had very little warm weather, veg-etation is not so far advanced as usual at this time, but is full & promising – a year ago we were in Ban-gor & it was very hot & sultry & still warmer here than there. now it is & has been comfortable cool breezy & pleasant weather. Last Wednes. (the fourth) we took a family excursion to the lake shore, a plea-sant ride of eight or nine miles; we set out at 7½ A.M. carried along a market basket [illegible] with a variety of good things; a bottle of cold coffee, oranges sliced with sugar, &c. & regaled ourselves delightfully under the shade of some [illegible] trees & reaching home about four P. M. a little tired but much gratified with our rural keeping of the great national hol-iday [illegible] making a beginning [illegible] my labor.

in regard to preserving fruit; we have garden rasberries yellow black & red — the bushes are yet young & do not bear very plentifully. yet I have made three or eight rasberry jams, the [illegible] abundance of currants & a goodly quantity of currant jelly I must make. Apples, quinces & grapes are are doing considerable later; our trees were full of apples so that it may have been all ground — the peaches were cut off by the few days of extreme cold weather last winter. The children are about as usual. Libby is still afflicted with weak eyes her general health is not good she has been out of school a year we are to have a vacation of eight weeks & it is very doubtful whether Hattie & Libby go next term if not I shall spend time with them at home to instruct them which will add somewhat to my cares I am thinking.

We have company a sort of uncle of the children's from thirty miles South of us, with his wife & two children. She has gone out to make a call will be back soon so I will close this that it may be ready for the mail. Do write oftener you don't know how much good it does me to get a letter from you. Love to all and wishes that all would write,

With much love daughter Anna

Oct. 1855 Oberlin Oct. 1855

[illegible]

Juna D.W.
Dec. 24 55

[illegible]

must need rest, for the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] before you [illegible]. The dear babies must be taken care of, but you must not do it anyway [illegible]; I know [illegible] it is for you to go [illegible] your [illegible] & then rest [illegible] from the medicine.

Of course, you must not fail to take care of mother in the midst of your other [illegible] & it [illegible] the [illegible] rest & quiet & no fatigue or excitement. [illegible] you [illegible] better [illegible] might [illegible] see you [illegible] Dunbarton? She can visit [illegible] when she returns to [illegible]. I am afraid that the boy [illegible] & Nellie [illegible] you [illegible] for [illegible] the [illegible] babies. Nellie has [illegible]

Much love to [illegible] & [illegible], & the [illegible]

I will write to [illegible] after you get home

I [illegible] this [illegible] will reach you [illegible] & that you will [illegible] as [illegible] pos-sible; I [illegible] until I see you. With much love [illegible]

Irvina Pa.
1856

[illegible]

My dear Daughter I received your letter with much surprise & grieved at your sickness near now & father thinks you must have had a bad time of it. I hope you will soon get your strength & that all will be well in the end — I hope your Caroline is with you & I am sure you must need a good girl — as Lizzie a help to you is only an additional care & burden — Annie's Mary is very excellent help when she first came here I was very near feeling uneasy for she & A. could not understand each other at all, but now Mary takes the whole care in the kitchen & she makes uniformly the very best bread ~~&~~ without variation. She makes her yeast by boiling hops — strains the water & boils hard potatoes in it. Then puts in some flour & little sugar with a little of her old yeast to ferment it — at the top of the saccharine fermentation she bottles it up & it keeps good for 2 or 3 weeks — She sets her bread to rise over night but I think as she never lets it get ~~sour~~ [illegible]

I wish I could know whether Isaac is going west this Spring or Summer or what he is going to do. Anna has about concluded to go east with me. The Dr. was intending to go to Illinois to see his son but he is pretty easily persuaded to make all his arrangements accord to her wishes now the point is to determine when it is best to go — As it concerns myself I am contented & happy here I could not reasonably be otherwise on any account whatever except that I do want to see you all & I want to do any thing I am capable of to make you happy —— The Dr. is very right pleasant & agreeable & I really love him I feel a perfect liberty & homelike feeling & I like the people about here as far as I am acquainted with them also the Meeting is near by & I like the Preaching

I dont know how the warm weather might affect my health but I should not feel any apprehension about it — the winter & Spring so far has seemed very much like Maine weather except that there we have some days more intensely cold & more snow there has been snow enough here for good sleighing from Dec. till into March.

In some respects Anna can leave home better in May & June than later in the season Miss W. has concluded to stay in here another term & so will be here till July & can act as housekeeper & that would be a great convenience you know as

Anna would not think of leaving the children with Mary alone Hattie is old enough & knows enough ~~if she was~~ if she was of a different temperament but it wont do now

~~Now~~ I have "opened" the case according to my ability now will you all think of it & decide for me what I had better do — Till I received your letter I had thought it probable that I should stay till fall notwithstanding some longings whenever my thoughts get "away down East."

I wish I could know what Isaac will do & where they will be — when I left Dunbarton I supposed that Hattie thought they should go West this Spring in that case I should see them here — I suppose I ought not to spend money to go there when I go back — when & how can I see them — will Isaac stay there all summer or what will he do? — I suppose he dont know himself — It seems to me that the Dr would enjoy his visit ~~in~~ in Maine in Sept. better than in June — but his visit will be short as we shall go without him & he go to come back with Anna — I want you should write immediately let us know all about your health & everything you can tell about all of you — Also after hearing from you we will write again & make arrangements about the journey, perhaps it can be so, that Everett can meet us at Boston when ever we do go

about going East I will go with Mother just when it is thought best. I can leave as well [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
& [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] We had not begun to think of the time particularly ~~before~~ your last letter came — but in the indefinite future next fall I expected to go east. now if you are there Mother must come earlier, & I can go — can leave home with very little inconvenience [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Perhaps last of May & then I can come for me towards the last of June — if Mrs. [illegible] is still in Boston I mean to stop there a day or two — cannot you tell me whether she is still there — Mrs. Child has lately buried her granddaughter Mrs. [illegible] & Mother would like to call on her.

I should hope to visit [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] coming — Mother wants to see [illegible] [illegible]

We are having [illegible] warm [illegible] weather tulips & [illegible] are peeping up out of the ground but we fear the cold winter has much injured the fruit. A few more warm days will [illegible] the ground so that mother can ride out & walk in the [illegible] more than she has done we are all invited to a [illegible] party this eve. You ~~have~~ ~~not~~ mentioned [illegible] in your last letter [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I was [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Sonia D. W.
July 4 '56

Dear Mother

We were very glad to have a letter from you awaiting us last evening as we arrived warm & weary at our own home. I wanted to hear from you very much — feared you would put off writing & that we should not hear for several days.

We do want to hear often — dear Lucy must try to keep up good spirits — the doctor still regards her case as on the whole a hopeful one — he does not think very favorably of taking a voyage — thinks traveling or visiting pleasant places as she can bear it would be good for the [illegible] in her [illegible]. —

We found all well. Libby was wild in demonstrations of joy at our return — & Hattie with less outward expression behaved beautifully. Mary rushed in & kissed me too. —
Home looks natural & pleasant — quite homey.

Syracuse July [illegible]

I will soon [illegible]

[illegible]

the foliage is much more heavy that at Bangor. the house seems all in shade the garden is in shade emphatically quite overshadowed with weeds: our strawberries are all gone— lettuce & asparagus overgrown & most every thing so choked with rank weeds as will very much retard their growth: we are to have little fruit this season — neither peaches pears nor quinces (one of the trees being in decay, the other with but three or four quinces on it: but few of the appletrees bear & we shall have very few grapes: our currants are nearly ripe & very abundant. We came home the northern route (i.e.) by way of Ogdensburgh St. Lawrence river & Niagara river — We had a distant & calm view of the Falls from the cars — did not stop: we had time only to accomplish the one thing — the visit to the mountains & the time was all too short. Isaac's company added very greatly to our enjoyment: the journey there was delightful winding among the mountains

Phin, Wm. & the children send much love to you & all —

the first day we crossed the lake & rode by stage over the hills to Conway on the Saco there quite a large & beautiful stream. Conway joins Frysburg Maine & is a lovely spot. You know Whittier has described the Saco river & valley as he has it "In the green lap of Conway's intervales" — it is becoming a great place of resort for invalids & families from the city to recreate, breathe pure air, ride walk & fish.

I wish I could tell you how charming the ride was from Conway to the notch of the White Mts. We literally followed up the Saco river, tracing it to its source, a little pond close by the hotel in the notch at the very base of the mountain range the highest summit of which is Mt. Washington. We rode through a little green valley well-cultivated & thickly settled with farmers with high mountains on each side sometimes shutting down close to the narrow & level valley, sometimes gracefully sweeping away to a distance the

How I wish I could see you all this morning. Tell Percy Aunt Anna wants to see him. Much love to all the dear ones of Bo[...] — I mean to write to Mollie soon but I do find so much to do. The children's wardrobe generally requires attention.

[illegible] clear & transparent & the purest glass
we [illegible] many times the different
colored stones on the bottom showing so beautifully
through the limpid water. We arrived at the Craw-
ford House at the "Notch" about one. — we ascended
[illegible] Willard, the same day a bold precipitous cliff on one side, a
wooded slope on the other — a carriage road
[illegible] been made winding round its side to the top
15[illegible] feet high commanding a most charming
view of the Willey valley where was the "Slide" of
1826 with destruction of the Willey family: [illegible]
[illegible] sleep as to take [illegible] us. The next
day bright & early we set out for the ascent of Mt
Washington. We rode horseback with pea-jackets &c.
9 miles ascending, & descending the same, — four sepa-
rate peaks, Clinton, Pleasant, Franklin & Monroe
about the pure exhilarating air, the grandeur
the beauty the almost terrible magnificence
of the views I cannot write, my mind &
imagination are full of them if I could <u>tell</u>
but I cannot now: — after riding eighteen
miles up [illegible] the Mountains we rode by stage [illegible]
[illegible] arriving at [illegible] eve, at Franconia
Notch: at Profile House saw the "Old man" but
was obliged to [illegible] in order to get [illegible] —

Anna D. W.
Aug 5 56

Elyria Aug. 5th/56.

Dear Sister & Mollie

We have watched much for letters lately & have heard very little. – Your kind letter came last evening – thank you very much for writing.

I have feared & hoped all along since I got home, but feared the most – Oh! how can we spare dear Lucy! It seems as if I could not have it so. – I desire not to be rebellious or murmur at the will of my Heavenly Father – He doeth all things well – but Lucy the darling of us all – always ministering so much happiness to us all – so much needed to her dear ones, it is hard to let her go. – How easy it is for us to appropriate our blessings to ourselves so as to forget that we are not our own, that all we have should be held in trust, & yielded up unreservedly as our Father in infinite wisdom sees best. – I was

We are all well. The doctor feels very much with me & Hattie too – Much love from us all – I write to Mollie & a few lines to [illegible] about [illegible] & paper [illegible] [illegible] her – Mother [illegible] to [illegible] with some copies for her – old [illegible] you [illegible] about [illegible] this to [illegible].

was quite hopeful while there with her
almost strangely so perhaps — but the
doctor thought there might not be
a diseased state of the lungs but
only a high degree of irritation — in that
case there would be, comparatively, but
little danger to be apprehended — ever since
we left Bangor however, I have had anx-
ious fears & a constant leaden weight upon
my heart. In a letter from Nellie a few
days ago she mentioned receiving a
note from ~~Lucy~~ & we hoped she was a
little better — Poor Samuel! and Mother
too, she has written discouragingly yet
she has expressed hope — it will be very
hard for her, but I must hope yet that
she will be spared. — Do write again as
soon as you receive this, if but a few words.

Much love to Eliot & to all the dear
friends at your house — you did not mention
little Irving: I hope he is well, his little sweet face
comes up before me very vividly. Yours most affectionately
Anna.

E. DeWitt
& Anna Aug. 14 '56

Elyria O. Aug 14, 1856

J. W. Fisher

Dr Brother

Although I feel quite unfit to write a word to any one to day being a little unwell. Yet so deeply do I sympathize with you and your Dear Wife that I cannot resist the wish to give expression to our feelings ~~[illegible]~~ in some manner, however feeble. I need not say that we are truly grateful for the short notes you have sent us of the progress of Dear Sisters case. Please assure her of my and our deep interest and anxiety, even deeply painful, for her distressed condition and danger, and of our most sincere prayers for her preservation and speedy recovery to health if it may be possible; And yet perhaps it is even more important that we should be anxious about ourselves than even our distressed sister. It is delightful to think of ~~her~~ her preparedness on whatever

may be her lot, if she shall be raised up to be a lot, what a blessing to her children and friends, what a rich experience of the mercies and faithfulness of her Saviour. but if otherwise, and she is now to be taken away from us, that she may go and "be with me where I am" says the Saviour, what a season of blessing in her patience and Faith and Love, will be left to us who will be left behind to stay a short time only, and then to follow, — and what glory and blessedness will open before her in the new Jerusalem; — Inconceivable happiness. —

O how desirable the attainment for us all to be able to say "Even so Father for so it seemeth good in thy sight" under all the circumstances of our being in this world. how difficult for us to appreciate the great fact that our Heavenly Father does really care for us more than any earthly friend

And that he does not willingly afflict us ever - and when we are chastened it is truly for our good - and so are grieved only. O that we may sit at his feet and trust Him -

Dear Mother & friends I will just add a word to this though I have not now much time. I want very much to hear all particulars about Lucy & you all. I know you cannot have time to write much but tell Mollie I do so want to hear more particularly & ask her to write me. We have been much discouraged about Lucy but now we cannot help but indulge hope - The name of the little one meets with much favor here. I am so glad you take all the care of it. I trust health & strength will be given you according to your need. It is very trying to me that I cannot be there --- any news from you if but a few lines every day or two is the only satisfaction there is for us at a

distance. The doctor has ~~heard~~ of an ill turn
none ~~unwell~~ for a day or two past
than for some time, before — has
been generally quite well. My health
is good better than before our journey.
I wrote to Emily Baker at Detroit
an account of our White Mt. tour &
her husband put it in his paper.
I think we will send the paper to
Charles I have not written to them
yet, as I mean to do. We had letters
yesterday from Mr. Rider & from
Isaac. — There is a pretty place here
for sale very low — perhaps you will
recollect the house just over the bridge
of Baron Von Bombach: his sons & his prop-
erty are in Milwaukee & he has decided
to move there, so will sell his place cheap.
two acres a fine garden spot fruit &c. —
I wrote to Isaac about it perhaps
he might think best to buy it — & how
pleasant it would be for us — if it would
be best for Isaac otherwise I would not
wish them to come. Arthur Ely is still
in poor health subject to frequent attacks
— epileptic — O what an affliction. much love
to all Very Affectionately Anna.

Anna D W.

Aug 25'56

Elyria Aug. 25/56.

Dear Mother

We begin to be quite anxious to hear from Bangor: it is two weeks since we have received any word from Lucy - I hope at least that she is no worse - the old saying is 'no news is good news' - may it prove so.

I have myself been nurse for the last ten days: the doctor has been very sick for a week past - bilious remittent fever - he was not well for several days - much pain in his back & limbs but took no remedies hoping each day to be better till taking a ride to Oberlin & coming home after it grew cold at night he was taken with a sudden chill followed by a severe attack of fever. The day he went to Oberlin he felt much better - wanted to go very much to obtain Prof. Monroe to preach for us (Mr. Wilbur was gone) the exertion was too much - he had regular paroxysms of fever every alternate day until last Friday since which time he has

free from fever and is gaining strength from day to day. I have taken all the care of him night and day & think I have approved myself quite a good nurse: he is still much prostrated can sit up but a few minutes at a time. It is a new experience for him having never been confined to his bed more than a day before in his life: he has rather boasted of his good health this summer – said he was better than before in twenty years.

Isaac wrote us that he would come out here and live if the doctor would buy or rent for him a good place – we shall strain every nerve so soon as the doctor is capacitated to attend to it we have already set inquiries on foot: it will be so pleasant for us to have them near us; he very wisely proposes to defer his journey west till they can move out here & save the additional journey. There are two or three places can obtained I have not doubt to advantage with ready money – property too that would be saleable if he should wish to dispose of it in a year or two.

I very much approve of their decision to establish themselves in a home - their happiness cannot but be promoted by it and as to the future let them wait & trust that a way suitable & desirable will be opened for them. When Isaac & Nellie get settled here perhaps we shall draw the rest of the family too. I must tell you that our fence is at last completed & looks well but the rubbish is not yet cleared up - would have been had the doctor remained well. While the new fence was making & the old one taken away a board up somewhat back at the house some unruly cows broke in & entirely destroyed all our corn, asparagus, squashes, beets &c. making sad havoc. - it was while the doctor was sick, I heard the cows, waked Mary & sent her to drive them out about three o clock. I went out in my nightcap & dressing gown & helped her fasten up the gate. Our grapes in the grape house are coming on finely: our sweet apples are ripe now but they are smaller than usual &

not very abundant. Vegetation is very
rank & full this year, crops, grass & heavy—
this month has been almost as cool as Octo-
ber usually is here — we seem to have exchanged
seasons with you — a large part of the time
we have had clear cool invigorating air—
the warmest part of the season was before
we came home. I received a letter from Lizzie
Thaxter a few days ago polite, cool & formal,
dated at Chicago where Mr. Thaxter now is in
a good situation she had been there two
weeks had "pleasant boarding accommodations"
I heard by Emily Baker that she was troubled
by mine somewhat. "dreaded lest my prosperity
& her adversity had created a chill between us"
as if such a cause if true could weigh with
me — I feel a little unpleasantly about it all but
time will bring all right I hope. I intend to
to answer her letter before long. Arthur Ely &
wife have gone east to make some stop at the
sea shore, but I fear it will be without benefit.
their handsome house is vacant & I believe for
sale. It is getting dark & I must send this to mail
Do write soon to us With much love to all Anna.

Anna D.W.
Sept 4 '56

My dear dear Mother

Lucy our beloved one is gone. Our hopes are over. – I cannot realize it – I want to see you & dear afflicted Samuel & the rest of the dear ones Oh! how much!

There is so much I want to know, what she said & felt – If I could only have been there to minister to her to express to her my sympathy & love – but it is now too late – It is hard to spare her to feel that her own smile & loving words will no more greet us: it has made a great void to us that are left the path of life grows lonely – Oh how much she suffered, yet I suppose I cannot know & feel this as you that were with her do, who watched her from day to day, & saw her going nearer & nearer home – to the blessed home – free from suffering, at rest & happy beyond all we can conceive. Let us take

---

Isaac stay at Bangor? Do Mother write me a long letter & ask Mollie to write too. The doctor has never recovered his accustomed health again not his strength lost about 14 lbs. flesh – looks thinner than I ever saw him before. We are all well now. The weather very cool & dry. Mr. Goodwin our next but one neighbour was buried last week. Much love to all: from us all: In much love Anna.

the comfort afforded us in this - & in the the peace & joy she felt;- we should be deeply thankful for this. I would write to Samuel but I can say nothing to comfort him. He knows how much I feel with him in this loss - this empty place - how deeply I sympathize with him my loss of a darling sister cannot I know be compared to his -- poor dear Jennie! Do write me soon dear mother & particularly. I want to know whether she was able to talk any of her own situation,-
Tell me too about the dear little baby,- Shall you be able to take care of it night & day? It would do me a great deal of good to know all about your doings & plans as if I were there & could enter in to them. How is Percy? How I should love to have him here & take care of him the coming winter; it seems almost cruel to speak of taking him from his father, yet if it were best for him to come, how gladly would we take charge of him: if Isaac moves here as we expect, he could come with them, How long did

Anna D. W.
Feb. 6 '57

Lynn Feb. 6

My Dear Sister,

I am wondering to myself that I have not written to you yet since receiving yours, when I have been thinking of it & intending to almost every day & I am not now, so busy or so burdened with care but that I can feel my time is ~~my~~ own for whatever purpose.

We have only our own little family now, as cozy as can be, the girls both go to school. Mary does all the work about house nicely except the occasional putting the rooms in order — the doctor goes to the Bank at 10 A.M. stays until 3 P.M. when we have dinner & supper all together (a new & favorite arrangement for three or four weeks past:) so you see I have a long, quiet forenoon all to myself: some days I go over to see Nettie, some days she comes with baby in carriage over here, at which baby is much delighted feeling quite at home here & being lonesome some too since his father has been gone.

After our late dinner we prepare to enjoy the evening & we do enjoy it — sitting around the open worktable in our little library with a bright kerosene lamp I take some easy work while the doctor reads aloud as when you were here: Hattie studies an hour practises some, & frequently reads loud a little to be criticised in reading which about consumes her evening: Libby too practises an

at School Hudson is the seat of the Western Reserve College. Mr. Nelson has got him a nice new wife; a graduate of South Hadley lives over on the point — Mr. Ely has a great healthy homely boy — Mr. Arthur Ely & wife are at Brattleboro at Water Cure: his health is some improved. His fine house & grounds are sold to Mr. Thomas Rollins & friends. Nettie has come over & brought her letter & baby is running round ever so happy; so with much love to all the dear friends I close my long letter. Your affectionate sister Anna.

The doctor has not yet come home [illegible] of course

hour. previous to going to bed & an excellent thing it is for her :. it obleges her to apply herself continuously & make accurate & nice distinctions which we think a peculiarly good discipline for her. She is quite teachable & quick in music & in other things when brought right up to duty.

She is perfectly well & is outgrowing all her clothes. Hattie is very well wears her dresses almost long but has not grown taller. I am not specially hurried in sewing though enough to employ my time, but I have been quite engaged all this week writing letters laying aside every thing else & making a business of it. I was owing 6 or 8 letters received from 4 to 6 months ago from Emily Baker, her sister Mrs. Converse Mrs. Theodore Furber, Mrs. Hopkins Mary Smith, Lizzie Thaxter Dewees & Fanny Co— I am going to keep up the good work till I have written to Mollie, to Charles & Albena & to Almeda from whom I received a letter yesterday & to Samuel.—

Almeda has a great trial & Mr. Rider's situation is dreadful to think of: he needs much grace & so does she too: she writes of attention to religion there 20 indulging hope & Lizzie interested

Oh! What a great blessing - if she should now be truly converted & changed in the spirit & temper of her mind! and James too. I fear he is not in the best place for cultivating a high moral & religious tone or the right sort of character. I am not sure but it would be the best thing he could do to go west with Samuel: perhaps Isaac might get him into good business at Du Quoin. Isaac's interest is there & I more than half believe he will be there more or less permanently. He has rented his house here for a year

and though he might undoubtedly find opportunities to give it up sooner, (families that would be glad to take of him) I have no idea he would think best under any circumstances hardly, to break up before next fall, — I hope he may find his interest & comfort best subserved by staying here it is so pleasant for us all & this place is so healthy quiet & favorable on many accounts ... good society - new Eng. people - good religious privileges, good schools means & manner of living, cheap, easy & independent. There is for sale a little retired from the main streets, a neat, almost new, cottage house with four acres of ground: if it is best, I should like it if Isaac would buy it for a present home, until his business is more settled & perhaps sell or rent it to Charles by the time he is ready to leave his farm. But whatever is done in the future, to which the way will in due time be opened; we all feel very desirous that you should come out here with Samuel & Percy: it seems to us best by all means: — I want to see you Oh. so much: it will be a good opportunity for you to come, at a favorable season too: you will especially enjoy being here while Isaac's family are here - a very doubtful thing after this year — life is short - we as a family have truly much occasion to feel that the time for us to be together & do each other good is but short & very uncertain. I feel very much like claiming you for the next year (i.e.) if it be according to your wish: —

I have thought it over & Nettie & I have talked it over - you cannot as things are be any alleviation comfort or help to Almeda in her trials. & though Charles & Albina I know would be glad to have you there, yet you are not needed would be lonely & low spirited I fear & ought not to have the care that I know you would take: here you would have rest & freedom from care & we could have time to talk of all the things that I want to know about in respect to Lucy & all that has happened: We

be very glad to pay your expenses both here & back if you will come & when you want to go home Charles Sha[illegible] & Albina must come here & visit us — Eliab & Mallie must come too — It is I think one of our first duties as well as a large source of earthly happiness to keep up by frequent intercourse the family ties in all their strength & all the more need after by separate families the circle becomes subdivided into smaller & separate households. —

It seems to me Charles might come sometime in the course of the season with such of his family as he could bring & it would do him good as well as us. I keep in mind that Mallie promised her first journey should be to Elyria. — —

We have had some pretty cold weather not so much or so severe as last winter — we hope the peaches are not blasted for next season. It is quite moderate now & the winter so far advanced that we shall not probably in this climate have much if any more severely cold weather.

The doctor has hardly I think regained his tone of health since his severe sickness last summer but is generally pretty well. I was really quite 'poorly' last fall but am now very well — was depressed, with little energy & hopeful feeling, but it is now altogether different I believe I am like you in that my spirits & tone of mind are apt to be dependent on the state of health more than is the fact with some people.

We have been reading Dr. Kane Lately have now 'Pott's Skeptical Era' and 'Master Pieces of Pulpit Eloquence' a sermon from each noted one of the 'Fathers' from Tertullian down to the present age you would be greatly interested in the work I think. Miss Woodbury likes her new boarding place very well — comes in once in a while. Mr. Wilbur's father & mother have moved to Elyria — he has bought a small farm near uncle Hall's. cousin Jenny is teaching this winter succeeds well — Hiram her brother is at [illegible]

Anna D.W.
Nov. 1858

[illegible] to you & a much longer time since you have written to me really I can scarcely remember when I last received a letter from you — not since early in the season I am sure & then only a part of one. I have written two or three times in the meantime to you & repeatedly to the other members of the family; Willie only has I believe written me in the course of the last year. Mother [illegible] [illegible] since I wrote last — she had been confined to her bed about two months & suffered much without any apparent disease except the general decay & feebleness of nature however, though she coughed & vomited constantly to the last was not very weak being able to be raised up in bed only a few minutes before she ceased to breathe; she said from the first that she should not get up again was willing & ready to go & died at last very easy. I believe I wrote you about her visiting us in my last. She enjoyed that visit much, spoke of it two or three times after she was taken sick a short time after. The Doctor's five sisters (all, with himself the surviving members of the family) with their husbands & some of their children, dined with us on the day of the funeral; Nancy has been failing in health.

Mrs. Gorley has another daughter seven weeks old. Jenny Hall has visited (East[?]) & returned. [illegible] is at Schenectady now, at [illegible] where George Putnam was. Jenny Putnam is engaged to Albert[?] Brooks. Also [illegible] marked improvement in her the latter part of the time of her stay here; her influence over Hattie & [illegible] was good. Do you recollect the carpet aunt Nancy bought for her room? red & black. We sent it by express to Hattie to furnish her room, three weeks ago. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] it again; probably. I do want very much to hear all about all of you. Will you not write me a good long letter soon? Much love to Charles, Albina the children, Almeda & children. The Doctor [illegible] [illegible] & all the friends with much love to yourself dear mother — Anna.

all summer – came back from Warren 1st of Sept. quite [illegible] able to go twice to see her mother with effort – was not at the funeral; she is now confined to the bed; it is two weeks since she has attempted to be dressed. She is wasting away – has just such a cough & short difficult breathing as Lucy had: she suffers much uncomplaining quiet & peaceful as ever. The front parlor is her room. Naomi is with her doing every thing for her just right as she knows how, devoting herself to the sick room: this is a great comfort & relief to me.

Hattie likes on the whole better than she expected, is doing well we think; we sent her a carpet for her room two weeks ago by express – have not yet heard since but probably shall soon. Libby is very well now goes to school & makes her way well in school life & duties & is really a good, affectionate girl; she takes care of her own room & does it nicely, keeping her washing apparatus neat & her room dusted & nice. I feared she would give me some trouble in this matter but she does not at all. The Doctor has not been quite so well as usual for a few weeks past; his dyspeptic troubles of long standing seem to be worse than usual now (during most of last year he says he has been better than for ten years) I feel that he needs to be very careful in order to preserve his health especially at this changeful season. Next week he expects to go to Akron on bank business & Isaac Nettie & myself propose going too, as far as Cleveland for the purpose of [illegible]

each a set of furs — we bought Mittens for Hattie — I do not care very much about having any — should get along very well without but the doctor has made up his mind that he wishes to buy me some furs, so I make no objection. The price will probably be somewhere between 30 & 50 dolls. I have one winter dress to make a piece of which I will send, Nellie has one like it has hers already made; I bought them ~~at~~ Detroit. We have made a change of help lately — were alone a few days. Our little Katy showed herself rather self-willed & important — did not get up in the morning & could not tend the furnace, yet she wanted full wages 1.25 per week, so ~~I told~~ we found another girl & I told her she was not well enough & strong enough to do all our work — the fall cleaning & the additional work made by sickness. Katy felt mortified & troubled at being dismissed but could not complain: we like the exchange; — an Irish girl speaking good English intelligent, & well trained. She has been in this country but three years & lived that time in a wealthy French family in Philadelphia — [illegible] to go on: she had been here but three weeks when she was taken with ague & has gone to her brother's for a week or two & meanwhile Katy (who had not found a place) was glad to come back & stay till our girl Mary is well enough to return. [illegible] Irish [illegible] younger [illegible] takes care of Charty who loves her dearly. [illegible] health is [illegible] than [illegible]. [illegible] is very well, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] alone by the river bank for his walks &

is now building a shed by man all by himself. Harvey's oldest son Follen is boarding here going to school is a fine pleasant boy, but not as yet very efficient. I hardly think he will suit for purpose for next summer; his mother feels very tender of him because he has not been healthy, has been subject to fits, & severe form of nose bleed. Nanie is making [illegible] Thibet robe for Libby, she has fixed over the front so [illegible] pretty. She is always ready to help, good tempered & capable about every thing. She & I together papered the girl's bedroom by the kitchen one forenoon nicely with some we had in the house using [illegible] the [illegible] & it looks very neatly. Our fruit is rather poor & of small amount this year — apples are all wormy & decay so fast. I wish I could convey half of them to Mile the remainder, would not keep all, I fear till we can use them.

We had but few good grapes; I have made 12 bowls of jelly of the poorer ones & no preserves; we had a few peaches, a basket or two perhaps I have made a little peach preserve & a jar of sweet pickles; apples also: the grapery was quite a failure. there were many grapes black Hamburg & white but all mildewed & blasted only a bunch or two that could be eaten — the wood of the grapery, rafters &c is much decayed — Mr. [illegible] is now at work repairing & making new, so the doctor hopes to secure, protect, & train the vines so as to have a good yield next year.

We have had remarkably fine, mild weather all the fall, & not any frost as yet to do injury. my plants are flourishing, I have a fine balm geranium & two or three slips just rooted, a Lady Washington &c. & one or two other new ones. — Follen's mother has come to spend the winter with her — a woman of shallow nature like Lottie except that she is a great talker: all about my & mine.

Lottie's baby is seven weeks old a bright & healthy boy.

Anna
Dec 14 '56

Elmwood Dec 15th [illegible]

[illegible] Anna

Your good, long, most welcome letter came the day after my last to you was mailed, else I should [illegible] an answer before this, & I would gladly have written but — & here might follow an indefinite list of hindrances, little difficulties, engagements of time & attention, with which it is not worth while to cumber my letter: I will only mention that our good, [illegible] faithful girl has been obliged to go home quite sick with the ague — the first time was gone a week — came back & staid [illegible], — has now been gone three weeks, — will stay till well. I believe I told you of her in my last — how faithful, & capable she was, [illegible] & to take care of every thing [illegible]. She came from Phil. [illegible] at [illegible] in the [illegible] it was wet & damp — she lived [illegible] & not [illegible], so took the ague. We have [illegible] girl [illegible] will stay till the [illegible] a [illegible] for [illegible]

& we are getting along very comfortably: if we
were only our own family it would be different
but sickness in a house always increases the
labor you know: no one could make less work
than Fanny does in her circumstances & Naomi's
attention has relieved me from all care: She fails
very gradually; it is some weeks since she has been
able to speak aloud & it fatigues her to whisper
more probably from the state of her lungs than
mere weakness. She has to be raised up in bed
- then can sit & eat her food without assistance
She takes no medicine is sustained & kept up
only by food - her appetite is pretty good - but
there are but very few things she can eat & her taste is
[illegible] [illegible] speech [illegible]. The [illegible] at [illegible]
the [illegible] had every thing nice - Nellie
was without [illegible] except [illegible] (small but [illegible]
Emily helped very efficiently as much as she
needed: they had a wedding party some from
Clinton, I presume Nellie wrote you of her [illegible]
I had no [illegible] that week but made some
money just enough to furnish Nellie for
the occasion. Last week Nellie had Jenny

Thurs. Dec. 22. Just a week ago I wrote so much of my letter intending day after day to finish & mail it but day after day it was crowded out by various things not necessary to mention — sometimes attending to cooking — sometimes by callers — we had one of Isaac's fat pigs brought home & I had to attend myself to the various things about it having an inexperienced, young girl. Naomi's time is wholly taken up in the sick room. Now I must tell you a little of our great disappointment. — We all anticipated much from Weal & Mattie's visit prepared every thing so as to have as little as possible to do while they were here — made plans to visit a few (the Kings, Wilburs, & Cousin [?] Uncle [?]'s &c. Nettie [?] setting & another) besides enjoying their company as we hoped for days — instead of this Weal came alone Sat. eve, left Monday evening — took one meal with us & spent one evening — Irving was sick at Binghamton & they dared not bring him so Mattie staid there with him. It is too bad to have their long talked of visit [?] turn out so. I cannot yet feel reconciled to it though I suppose it is all right in one sense at least (over

E. DeWitt
Dec. 22d. 58

Elyria December 22. 1858

Dear Mother

Anna has just finished a letter to you, and remembering my remissness in this behalf I am now to make my bow and say in a word that when one has to write letters every day of his life numbering from 2 to 20 a day or say about 2000, a Year, and copy them and put them up and superscribe them — letter writing becomes somewhat like work. And then I have as you know but very little to say that Anna cannot say much better than I can myself — I do not remember but one or two things which may interest you that Anna has not said. Bro Isaac has made a purchase of about 40 acres of good wood Land, about 3/4 of a Mile from his House in the edge of Carlisle Township, and on the center Avenue, or rather on a road which is in a line with the Center Avenue, South, has made a good bargain I think. And Isaac and we, that is to say Me and my Wife Anna, have raised the money and this day sent for one of Wheeler & Wilsons Sewing Machine to be owned jointly, and now perhaps Anna & Nettie will be taking in work, we shall see — if you have any thing in this line you wish to put out to be done of course in the best manner, and speak soon & own

I send a little pattle [illegible] by Eliza [illegible] queer gift to send so far but I thought it pretty [illegible] it would be convenient for you in your room so please accept [illegible] Anna:

and will come and bring it, I think I can safely promise you any reasonable accommodation —

We were truly very sorely disappointed in not having the pleasure, anticipated so long, to see Sister Maria and Ellen Erving here with Bro Eliab, and then to have Bro's visit so badly clipt too; but then we are thankful to see him, a representative of the family, and in such good health. he really walked from Grafton Station to Bro Isaac's House 8 miles in the mud; it had been very wet for several days and the walking must have been nearly as bad as it could be. and yet he would have us think he felt all the better for his walk, a great comfort truly. One we should by no manner of means permitted him, but that the Telegraph from Cleveland in the Morning reached Bro Isaac a few Minutes only before E— step'd into his door about 5 in the evening — E— has granted this gratification, a partial promise that he will make is another visit next Summer —

Since You left here, though only a brief period, some changes have passed over us, My dear Mother has passed away to that better country to which we all hasten — She was a dear good Mother, and her end was peaceful and happy — My Sister Nancy is now slowly and quietly sinking down to the grave She too seems as calm and cheerful as ever in life, has made disposition of her worldly affairs, and now patiently waits the call of her saviour, a hope full of immortality in truth —

I need not say we enjoy very much your kind letters, hope we shall be very often favored in this way. Please give very very best respects to all the dear friends, and believe me your affectionate Sister

Anna D. H. Jan '59

"much" disappointed not to see Irving but it would have been better had they left him at home. Mallie would have come here & we should have had a good visit from her while Eliza was in Penn. for he spends nearly all his week there & journeying to & from his land [illegible]. The only solace is to look forward to some future time when they can come not pressed & burdened with business to the prevention of all ease & enjoyment, — but a visit to spend some weeks in quiet family visiting. I do not think it either right or wise to be hurried through life in such a way as to crowd out of it the best & noblest of life's enjoyments — though in saying so I am but condemning myself — for days & weeks pass on with me filled with mere [illegible] cares which seem in retrospect only unprofitable. Life is a problem & how to solve it rightly, a great question. In youth we fail to realize the value of time & so lose its best improvement — in the middle period of our lives we are in the rushing stream which bears us on so fast that we almost feel we have no time — Perhaps there comes a time in later life all...

be much [illegible] in the [illegible] — you can tell better than I if it is so. Your last letter was received a day or two before I commenced this if I had a little more time at command I would gladly answer the things in it but must wait till another time & now only scribble off what I want to say. Elias spent an evening with Hattie I am very glad it was a great gratification to her & to us for he could tell us of her — he appeared to be much pleased with her: no doubt she was much disappointed not to see Mattie & Irving too. — She has been quite ill since Thanksgiving she went to Mrs. Nelson's father's to visit two or three days, she was feasted & taken about Springfield to see all the lions, till she was excited — her stomach was [illegible] so that on her return to school & studies & boarding house fare, she was not only dyspeptic, [illegible] & disordered but considerably homesick too; — wrote us some quite doleful letters but we hope she is better now — she wrote us that she had nosebleed profusely & palpitation of the heart on coming up stairs (she foolishly told the teacher she was able to room in the fourth story) so her father wrote to the head teacher

to give her a room on one of the lower floors.
& we sent her by Express a pretty, warm, worsted sacque, as she complained of taking cold from working in cold rooms & from the cold halls & passages. Her expenses have been more than we expected, averaging nearly two dolls. per week besides regular charges. We begin to think that school not so much cheaper than others as we supposed - there are so many extras. We do not intend now to keep her there another year, but we have been thinking it would be better for her to stay at Bangor a few months or even a year if Theo & Harriet are willing to take her to board, letting her come right into the family, taking care of, & working upon herself (as she will have to do after a year at Hadley), going into society a little — just as she would with Clara & her sisters, & continuing in some branches of study, French &c.

We think this if it should be practicable & seem best all round, would do her as much & more good with less expense than a year at school & be greatly better than making her debut in Elyria with old associates &c. Afterwards, perhaps her father would give her another year at school either Holyoke or some other. We have not mentioned these plans to Hattie herself or to any

one except to Isaac & Nellie who highly approve & I intimated something of it to Eliab. If Hattie had come I intended talking with her more fully — perhaps the better way will be to let the matter rest until her vacation which we think she may spend down east & then determine the future. A Chandler girl from Foxcroft, who ~~remembers~~ remembers both Isaac & me, has invited her to go home with her it would be company for her on the journey —

Your plans in respect to my spending a part of next season at Milo with Libby is I must confess a very inviting one to me in many re-[illegible], I have no doubt but it would be highly beneficial as well as pleasant, but there are objections & obstacles which make it very impracticable. The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] are [illegible] [illegible] for the present, requiring economy ([illegible] [illegible] just [illegible] about [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]) & while Hattie is away at school we ought not to journey much — if [illegible] [illegible] were not insuperable, I do not see how I could leave the [illegible] lonely & alone, & he would not be absent from the bank long. Perhaps Isaac & Nellie can make a visit east next season & you & Eliab [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] with them. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] for a few years for his long [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] & perhaps his absence may be [illegible] [illegible] complete.

With a great deal of love your ~~affect~~ affectionate
Mamma.

Peoria, Jan 17 '59

Dear Mother

I wish I could see you this morning & have a good talk: though nothing very special. there is much I want to say if I could talk it: I have my good girl back & have not quite so much household care as for a number of weeks past. I have been sewing on the machine this morning getting initiated in its mysteries, for it is really quite an art to use it skilfully: I have not attempted anything very [illegible] on it yet. [illegible] have just made a pair of chemises for Libby on all except gathering; this can be done but I cannot yet. I was not probably more than two hours about it, including all my stops, breaking thread, taking out crooked work & doing over again. [illegible] you can imagine what a help & comfort it will be: I have about thirty yards of unbleached cotton to make up & the work will be really quite a pleasure to do it on the machine. [illegible] is not yet as much versed in its use as I am but [illegible] can do quite well is much taken up with it. He calls aloud for work to do on it, whenever he can spare time to spend a while upon it. Isaac has been

here [illegible] sewing on [illegible] machine [illegible] Wilcox enjoying herself with Libby who is glad to have only [illegible] though not about to [illegible] her eyes The doctor has been very [illegible] for a few days the weather [illegible] been [illegible] for health to [illegible] rather [illegible] [illegible] 157.

quite active of late in the formation of a Young men's Christian Association: we hope it will do much good here, many have joined young & old. they have established a reading room in [illegible]ly's block, open to all & now much frequented with attraction of Periodicals, Reviews &c. a commencement has been made for a library, books given & loaned by members. [illegible] Brooks the Episcopal clergyman is the president, Isaac is Sec. I believe. The chief interest now in appearance is in Mr. Brooks' society; he preaches sabbath evening with attractions of good - even artistic music, house well lighted; & he himself has much freshness & earnestness in preaching which makes him acceptable to the young, who all go to his church Sabbath evenings. Mrs. Fitts is still living - yesterday (Sab[illegible]) she seemed almost gone - her [illegible] & sister [illegible] folks [illegible] here most of the day but she revived & has seemed better. She suffers from cough, shortness of breath & pain in her limbs which are much swollen yet she has not suffered much acute pain. she is just as calm & quiet as you have always seen her, satisfied with all that is done for her: she has been confined to her bed for more than four months, has had watchers for about four weeks: I have sat up some, but not all night yet. Mrs H. Ely is coming to night: there is some sickness about just now. some

We are especially glad to have [illegible] at B. when you are [illegible]. I should think you would stay until warm weather. The spring at this is cold & unpleasant

Hattie sent me a very pretty Honiton collar in her last letter which she had embroidered with red & white; beautifully done.

scarlet fever prevailing among children one or two have died. Mrs. Darling has been very sick for three or four weeks past, her baby is six weeks old. Rollin's family are pretty well, he comes regularly every sabbath eve & spend a short time before meeting time: he is much changed, has lately taken a class in Sabbath school — his youngest boy four months old is a fine child. Isaac's family are well, Nettie is in good condition & very well. Wilder is a dear little fellow & quite an original in his way. Charlie is a great nice looking boy. Eliab has told you about them I suppose. Libby has weak eyes again quite bad, she went to school all last term but will not probably go any more at present. I occasionally read George Putnam's letters to Hattie should judge him an interesting man; he seems to throw himself right out into the world of men to act his part & do something & this course leads to success, generally. I have not heard from Almeda for a very long time; she owes me one or more letters. I mean to write to her before long. I am glad Lizzy is attending school at the village but her standard of attainments will not be likely to be very elevated if formed solely upon models found there. Has she much ambition to make much of herself? Has she the natural qualities to render her interesting to others? We feel much gratified at the prospect of sending Hattie

to [illegible] Cornelius' school I do not think
the distance will be too great but beneficial, after
the last [illegible] of health.
I am glad Sally has had the experience she has at
Hadley, it will prepare her I have no doubt to profit
by other advantages: She has not aptitudes for close
mental effort & research, much less for the reasoning of
higher mathematics; will never make a very thorough or
finished, mere scholar but she has good sense much quick
ness in the apprehension & appreciation of common & outward
things: She has, too much [illegible] of good & correct feeling
developing more & more, In the right circumstances, I
am sure she will improve constantly & make a useful
christian lady. I feel that the present way for her has been
directed from above & is right & best. I do hope you & Nellie
will not fail to indicate to her any deficiency or lack in any respect,
& check, restrain or reprove, if her good requires: She will receive
such things well & be benefitted. In small, unimportant matters
she is too apt to lean on some one else, & not exercise her own judgment
it has been so I presume at her school, among so many her superiors, [illegible]
more self-reliant than she is. I judge her self-importance has not been in
creased there: she's in danger perhaps of discouragement as to her
own capabilities & possible achievements. I have thought much & [illegible]
late on the importance of a healthy & truly good growth of indi-
vidual character — perhaps I have tried too much to bring the
every thing to a particular model rather than to train up & devel-
the faculties that are given — the abilities & bent of native character.
We that are older are apt to forget the gulf between youth & mature
years, in feelings & tendencies & not make enough allowance for
the thousand things that experience only [illegible] correct.
perhaps I have erred in expecting too much in this direction & I suggest
to you not to be disappointed or troubled because of the many
for "silly" (to us) ways of youth. There is a time you know, when girls
must be girls & not older people. Nellie is

these things. Some other things too. In reading
we want her not to be too desultory but have
at least one well-selected book to be reading
in course; if she can read aloud evenings it will be
an excellent thing for her. I think it will be well
for her to go when opportunity favors. She is at the age
to be benefitted by going into company with older
persons. She must be her own judge in general
of what money she can spend but shall I you
will of course direct in the best expenditure & she can;
dress well when occasion be but wear out old dresses running

We expect & wish her to be a boarder there at a fair price. but it would be much better for her to do some things regularly — she will be willing — will expect to be called on in any way that she can be serviceable. Mollie can fix upon some things to be in her charge as the nice lamps, the care of parlor or chambers or whatever she thinks best. If it should be any more convenient to have her do so, by all means let her do her own washing & ironing. I shall write to her on

Anna
Jun. 22 / 54

Elyria June [illegible]

Dear [illegible]

[illegible] ago a very short note, but as [illegible] I think I may have omitted both in your letter & the foregoing one to mention the mention of Anna's present whereabouts. She has been at Chicopee a little more than two weeks at the house & under the care of [illegible] Esq.

It is an excellent place & we feel very thankful that such an asylum is provided for her now the family is a real New England one of the good stamp in moderate circumstances I have no fear that she will imbibe false notions of things there or be under any but salutary influences & her expenses of board &c. will not exceed that of the Seminary. Her physician

[illegible]

& whom Mr. Nelson speaks in the very
highest terms has prescribed for her
some: she is we judge from a letter rec'd
yesterday almost well again. She knows
now that she is to wait there until
word from Eliza directing her when
to go to Natches. Mr Cheney will see her
there and from there safely. We ^shall^ feel
a little uneasy of course until we hear
that she is safe at Natchez. Please
to write as soon as Eliza has arranged ^set^
for her going & tell us how & when, if
there are any expense of time or money,
he may incur on her account we
shall be glad to make good to him
& be much obliged to him too. We have
written her what we expected of her — she is
much pleased with the destination — says
in her last "she is going to be the brightest
star in the firmament — will have no
"can't" in her dictionary"! She tells many
so she has the [illegible] — inform him well — &
we trust she will gain much benefit from her
stay there. Sibby's eyes are bad again — I have
a pain in my face & am confined today from taking cold,
Aunt Nancy is about the same as for a week
past. The weather is [illegible] for the season here.

Anna. Milo Aug. 28 - '52
Dunbarton -

Mon. S. A. Aug. 28th

Dear Nettie I commence a letter to you but have not much to write it seems quite dull here now and I should be decidedly lonely if we had not so much to do as to leave no time for anything scarcely but work, work. — We have had two rainy days, steady rain, pattering all day on the windows and roof with misty low-ering clouds in the sky, but still and warm, — very propitious for sewing steadily; — this morning it is clear, and every thing looks delightfully: the river has risen so much that the water can be seen for quite a distance, — all the rocks I presume are covered. Yesterday a coloured 'gen man' from Phil. lectured on slavery, free soil &c. had a large audience in spite of the rain: he is an edu-cated man ~~Presb~~ Presbyterian minister. 'Uncle Henry' came to day to walk over the farm: his wife

is quite in earnest about coming: he offers about three hundred for it.

Mond. morn. Heard Mr. Ames the Free-will Baptist yesterday. I was quite disappointed in him: he appears to me much superior to Mr. Follet: he is quite animated and agreable in manner and had more thought, more earnest power in his sermon than in all I have heard of Mr Follet's.

The black man spoke P.M. on our system of slavery compared or rather contrasted with the Hebrew; rather rambling and ranting but pretty good: the hall was crowded to overflowing. It is rainy again to day with wind and storm, like autumn blasts, the sky looks cold, the foliage gray and sad and wet, wet is everywhere.

Mond eve Just received your letter for which many thanks dear sister. I am

truly sorry you should have had such a wea-
risome, painful week for your last in Bangor
I think it unpleasant and very fatiguing
sitting for Daguerreotypes but business with
the dentist is worst of all. You will be glad
enough to get to Dumbarton and I fear
you will be sick there so as not to enjoy your visit
with your friends. Mother feels troubled about
the summons for her contained in the
letters just received, is disinclined to go and
thinks her children will not find in any
picture what they see in her, which may
be partly true but we think it will be a
very great gratification to us to have her
portrait correctly painted.

Tues. Sept. 7th. I intended to finish and send
this at once but various hindrances were in the
way to prevent: I have not been well for several
days, though not sick. Mother too went quite
beyond her strength in assisting Almeda Be-

fore we left and has not yet regained her accus-
tomed spirits and health. Lucy has had an
ill turn since you left but is somewhat better.
'Uncle Natty' called yesterday to see mother
and myself, brought a large basket of apples
and invited and urged that we should
visit there, said we must excuse Sarah's
not calling, because she had many cares,
time taken up by painting &c. he is truly
very kind and we have concluded to
send them a formal invitation to visit
us in a day or two and so avoid the
necessity of going there, and discharge
all obligations. The painter came yesterday
and took the outline for Mother & is coming
again tomorrow. I think you are very
successful in your Daguerreotypes: I am much
obliged for mine I think it good. I am delight
ed with Lucy's handsome one: it is very fine and a
beautiful present. My pen is so horribly bad
that I fear you can scarcely read this. I want
sadly to hear from you, hope we shall have a
letter to day telling us about Brunswick

My kind regards to your friends and best wishes and much love to yourself and my dear brother Isaac.

and when you expect to start and how soon we may hear again.
Sister Annie

Anna. Bangor Jan 21/53
Dubuque Feb. 11./53, Bangor Jan 21st/53.
Feb. 11. Rec'd

Dear Sister Nettie

Your last letter furnished us quite a theme of conversation. You truly had a narrow escape from a dreadful death: we much admire the presence of mind shewn by the girl:- many would only have screamed helplessly round the house but she seemed to do just the best thing possible. Did it not make you sick? and have you got well over it? I am very glad your situation is in general so pleasant - the season I should judge is not so favourable for health or enjoyment as usual in that climate: here the winter is truly delightful- clear, bright days succeeding each other fine sleighing - the weather just cold enough to be pleasantly exhilarating: there has not been a storm during this month, scarcely a cloud in the sky I have enjoyed the winter thus far much though chiefly within doors for having few occasions to call me out, I must plead guilty to having slighted the health-inspiring Borean breezes perhaps. We have quite a home circle here now, Mother myself and Eliab have been the sole occupants for the last week: Lucy arrived home last eve: she has written you of our flying visit to Milo

and Brownville and has told doubtless all the news respecting the welfare of our loved ones there: Charlie is a dear little fellow much more interesting in his ways than last summer: — the little dogs gave him much delight: he is gifted with a nature of quick, keen sensibilities perhaps may however as a source of suffering.

Eliab sent a letter in a package containing the instrument of Dr. Osgood's, mailing it two days ago.

I have been somewhat dissipated this week, albeit living most of the time almost a recluse: — The Vestry of the new church is finished, & one room called the 'ladies room' in which the Sewing Circle is held — has conveniences for heating water and a closet for dishes: last evening was the annual meeting, a public invitation was given to the supper provided, picnic fashion — by the ladies — we sent a fine jelly cake — and everybody was there: So many wealthy ones are joining that church that Eliab says they are in danger of being the most aristocratic society in the city: — Mr. Walter Brown, J. B. Foster, married Katharine McGaw — Isaac Hatch, Wheelright — I mention these names for Isaac's benefit. The girls of the Sabbath school furnished a table of pretty things;

Eliab this morn: He hopes to get another letter from you this week — are anxious to know of your health &c.

which sold for about fifty dollars. Mr. Nat'l Harlow, having espoused the widow of the late Charles Plummer of little memory, now lends his influence to the third church, at least, in part. The said marriage is as might be expected a nine days talk. — it was noticed by a famous serenade performed by several sleigh-loads of soi-disant gentleman on a great variety of instruments, as tin pans, cow-bells &c. they sung 'The Old Folks at home' with a full chorus of all sounds.

Mrs. Plummer is a very shrewd smart woman is somewhat 'raised' in social position and both she and her daughter we think feel that they have attained a little elevation: at the Lyceum, the first time they appeared there together they took their stations on the platform and immediately there was a considerable clapping, stamping, even hissing; a very mortifying insult, disgraceful to the community certainly, but a paragraph in the 'daily', a day or two after, noticing it, must have made it still more unpleasant for them. We have had some fine lectures this winter: two, by Dr Cheever this week on 'reading', — highly finished productions, very suggestive and rather condemning the practices of Isaac as well as myself in reading so much, and so miscellaneous as we have been wont to do: in speaking of 'Style' he said

This is I confess a meagre letter — I will try to write a better one next time: — must close it now in order to send it down

that 'Pilgrims Progress' De Foe's Robinson Crusoé and of course the our translation of the Bible are the purest idiomatic english in the language that Shakspeare is too perfect to be imitated as the calm serenity of the air cannot be painted or the soul or expression of the lineaments of a perfect face. He called 'taste', educated habit, named a few Authors, widely differing as standards, Milton, John Foster, Bacon, Coleridge, each to be made a sort of nucleus & form a subject for a course of reading he said more scholars had been crippled by too much reading, than had been prevented from rising to eminence by the lack of it. --

Dr Cheever is the author of 'Voices of Nature' of which we have spoken in our letters I think: it is a book of absorbing interest full of good and great thoughts I hope you will get it ere long. — Mother and Lucy have been talking steady, all the while I have been writing and I fancy you will have rather a dull letter from me this time. —

Is'nt it bad that so long a time must be taken in the transit of letters, - I always want to feel, when writing that I am in 'communication' with the person to whom I am writing and always do feel so in a measure - but to know that three or four weeks will probably elapse, before it is received puts quite a damp on the welcome illusion: it seems as if it would be quite stale in so long a time but it is really just as fresh I suppose: We take much comfort in your letters do write them often oftener: - Much love to yourself & Isaac from Anna.

Your last kind letter of Feb 16 received yesterday was truly a pleasure.

We often speak loving words about our sister [illegible] because she writes us so promptly and particularly [illegible] so pleasant to [illegible] to see [illegible] [illegible] and form some definite idea of them [illegible]

[illegible] and doing.

[illegible] glad you are so happily [illegible] and have so many favourable things in your situation there; in respect to religious privileges, opportunities of being useful, and congenial society, which last is a blessing to be highly prized, especially in that part of the world. It seems Isaac is very busy — too much so I fear, — it seems sad to me to have the whole of life crowded with cares, responsibility of incessant business, every one needs some leisure to clear and calm the thoughts, and enable one to 'take an observation' upon themselves. How in

Isaac left us two weeks since going to a boarding house near his business. I believe he has written [illegible] I wrote [illegible] closely [illegible] he [illegible] all [illegible] about [illegible] there [illegible] going [illegible] I must [illegible] wonder [illegible] might be [illegible] inexperienced [illegible] to his health [illegible] I am not [illegible] how [illegible] would like it. [illegible] expect to be [illegible] a month [illegible] Mary must [illegible] [illegible] heard [illegible] what [illegible] speaking [illegible] most [illegible] very high[ly] of her. Tell George I do not see much of late from his pen; fear he do[es] not

'Mother' [illegible] very [illegible] a special deal of Grace.

do 'his part!' Little must love Jesus [illegible]

valuable is the sabbath for this use alone, — to interpose a check and barrier to the rush and tide of business! How the sabbath with its occupations and influences, places at a cooler and more distant view, the little engrossing things of our every day life. I think your winter, as to weather, extremely unpleasant, though ever so mild and balmy, green grass and budding leaves seem out of place, and would scarcely I should think relieve the mud and frequent rains, — yet your sunny days must look all the brighter and pleasanter for the frequent changes, and provided you can find sure footing I think horseback riding must be delightful. You have not written much particularly about yourself; has the colour deepened any on your cheeks, and do you find yourself improving in health by the climate and out-door exercise?

This morning the flakes of snow are falling, softly and silently, after the type of an "old-fashioned snow-storm" except that the weather is somewhat too "mild" to promise fine sleighing of which pleasure and convenience, we have been nearly destitute

for the last two weeks; Samuel was obliged to go as far as Bradford on bare ground last Monday; he was at home all last week, - will probably not go more than twice more. It is very pleasant to hear through him of Charles' and Almeda's families so particularly every week or two. I believe Lucy wrote you what a good visit we had from Almeda and Mr. Rider rather unfortunate for them for on her return her carpet bag was lost and has not since been found, which from the loss of the things subjects her to some inconvenience. The report from the baby, little Mary, is, that she grows good-natured and handsome.

Mother has been intending to write you and Isaac for some days has I believe commenced a letter; she is in uncommonly good health and spirits this winter and accomplishes quite an amount of business of one kind and another. Lucy holds on the 'even tenor of her way' with little variation; she is always in good spirits and we all have a most quiet comfortable and happy time here together.

I have been out very little the past winter enjoying myself, perhaps too selfishly, at home: occasionally

Ans. Bangor, March 6, 1863.

Dr Lewis, March 24 - 1863.

I attend the sewing Circle of the Third Parish; the ladies have undertaken truly a great work; no less than to make all the cushions of the new church 144 in number. Mr. Jewett spends his time on each Tuesday in doing the harder portion of the work, a man is employed to fill and stuff them, and all the rest is done by the ladies, and resolute and energetic they are; several cushions are completed and look as well as any could wish; ~~[illegible]~~ two doll. on each cushion is thus saved. It has been the week of public Examinations of Schools: - Isaac will be interested to know that I was in Mr. Worcester's yesterday - heard a dozen or two boys recite in Latin and Greek; they did themselves much credit.

Mr. Crosby and wife visited us day before yesterday and informed of Margaret's wish to go West to teach. I think she is eminently calculated to do good from her abilities and missionary spirit, but I fear her health is hardly firm enough to warrant so much responsibility and labor. She can try however and her mother says she is quite desirous of going. It will be to you like having a sister there. I am glad to hear such good account of her brother. Lizzie Lee and myself are thinking about going to Chicago to teach; your friends there have sent desiring ~~teachers~~ us to go with promising prospects of success.

Dear Sister Hattie

I have been meaning to take pen in hand ever since the receipt of yours of 25 ult about a week since; we had a feast on that day; — it is so pleasant to have a little packet of letters all at once; for one letter always seems to leave one unsatisfied. Lucy is in quite comfortable and happy case this morning, sitting on the lounge making beech nuts while mother is cutting pasteboards to assist her. Shall I tell you what they are talking about? Mrs. our new sister Maria to be sure. (she spent last evening) here, with Eliab. We like her much - she does not look at all as we expected: they arrived last Sat. Samuel met them at the boat went up to their boarding place with them and Maria half an hour and after tea I went over & sat with them awhile. I spent yester afternoon going thro' [illegible] with them; - they bought a carpet very pretty, with [illegible] of green and brown, and curtains of embroidered muslin — they purchased some

[illegible]

I should like much to be with you now the goldfinch the early blossoms and walks

to write the letters of so much on the sabbath; fear he does not spare [illegible] [illegible] to the care of and rest [illegible] his own priests.

furniture in Boston; they have two pleasant chambers on one of the pleasantest streets in Bangor: opposite them is Dr. Ladd's pretty garden with summer house and large old trees, and farther back, a green terrace with shrubs and flowers: we think Elias very fortunate in securing such good accommodations especially so large and comfortable a sleeping room.

I am going to day to help her make the carpet and it is time to go now so I will defer the writing till I come back. Thurs. P.M. I have been busy all the day in 'fixing' a dress: it is almost summer air to day, the season thus far is remarkably forward we have had scarcely any storms or cloudy weather and as to April showers we have not seen any of them: I suppose you are quite verdant in your Floridian clime and begin already to witness in coming the warm and beautiful re-creation of nature by the stimulus of One who reneweth the face of the earth.

I expect before many weeks to go to Milo and Brownville: I want to spend some time with Almeda before going west: should you not like to hear the birds sing in those great old woods behind the Hotel house?

Samuel has just been in to see Maria on his way home to tea, carried her a lump of sugar (Maple) also brought some for us: wish we could give you a taste of it

I think of exploring the pastures and groves this eve or tomorrow in pursuit of the Trailing Arbutus that I suppose you do not find there. We are in excellent health except Lucy and she is for her, quite 'smart'. Business has commenced with much vigor, — Eliab is out all day on the 'shingle square', and Samuel is very busy at the mill, attending to his grinding &c. he has to day completed the sale of his logs (i.e. his winter's work. He has just received the appointment of Deputy Surveyor from the new Surveyor General Mr. Pierson, so he is not likely to be out of business. Maria has many 'ornaments and 'pretty things' — presents from her friends and scholars; she seems to be quite an energetic and sensible little person. Eliab looks very happy of course but thinner than I ever saw him: he had a severe cold before he went to be married. What an ado is made about Mrs. Stowe: I am afraid she will be spoiled — her key is out and I hear it spoken of, but have not seen it: it is said to contain statements that will make the fairness of Southern [illegible]; she has embraced the opportunity to say some plain things about slavery: she seems to be fairly launched on

Samuel has just been in to see Maria on his way home to tea carried her a lump of sugar (Maple) & she brought some for us; — first we could get

Bangor. Maine Apr. 20. 1853 —
Dr Lucia Ray — 1853 —

the arena of public life and to occupy a prominent place among the present actors in the world's drama. We have been reading Joanna Baillie's poems, mostly dramatic we like them much. Have you or Isaac ever read them? In a letter to Emily Coleman my friend in Westfield a while ago, I chanced to mention a sermon of Mr Fisher's that pleased me much and express the wish to read it and the dear kind girl borrowed the sermon copied it and sent it to me in her own handwriting! was she not very kind to take so much trouble for my gratification: her letters are always truly interesting: her friend Henry Baker whom Isaac will recollect seeing at the ~~Farm~~ Falls, has lately experienced religion. We have not heard from Margaret Shelley since Lucy wrote you — it is feared she will not be able to go West this Spring: it is certain she cannot, for a moment contemplate teaching at present. It is yet uncertain about my journey to Chicago I am not making much calculation upon it — we shall probably know soon. Lucy sends much love to Isaac too — we hope to hear from you tomorrow

With much love Sister Joanna.

Dear Sister

Your welcome missive of love, date May 2, was received last Sat. also Harry's, (for him, most commendably long) letter to [illegible]. A letter from Samuel, a long one from [illegible], and [illegible] very lately to you, are on the way if they have not already reached you. I don't like to think that letters are so long on the journey, but so it must be I suppose.

Lucy gains strength rather slowly but is comfortably getting on. She moved down stairs yesterday, baby, lounge, and all suitable appurtenances. The aforesaid baby is a very important personage in the family, to be sure; he asserts and well maintains his claims to pretty constant attention. He is three weeks old to day and looks and acts like a baby of five or six weeks. He is a thorough and [illegible] little "Sucker" - [illegible] his thumb, as [illegible], or any thing else he can procure. His eyes are neither blue nor black, but dark and bright; his forehead usually scowling, his mouth wide open most of the time, and his head black enough to indicate the complexion of the Sunny South; nevertheless he is quite a handsome child of his age, and "mighty smart" too, for he smiled intelligently before he was a week old, and already manifests a great degree of acquisitiveness and a very persevering spirit. So much for our new comer who is undeniably

Mr & Mrs. [illegible] were here about two weeks ago: yesterday Mr. G. & Rufus were up to our meeting. Margaret is better; they hope recovering. My reading of late has been quite limited both as to variety and amount. I should like much to read Littell's but doubt whether it is so select and elevated in character as the Eclectic Monthly which it seems me judicious above as much reading of that kind as one can afford to [illegible] improve. — I am reading [illegible] on the Will and Campbell's Philosophy of Rhetoric.

I read [illegible] a [illegible] ago: it is better & [illegible] than [illegible] very natural and life-like, but [illegible] perhaps [illegible] by [illegible] requiring the time of perusal.

of much consequence, and therefore properly [illegible] of mention. Lucy has with her, Mrs. Griffith of Brownville, (Mary Thomas, niece of Mr. Rider's first wife:) her husband is in California and she stays at present as nurse and housekeeper. I expect to go in a few days to Brownville for some weeks, then to Milo. Mother too expects to leave here for Milo in a week or two as soon as Lucy becomes strong enough to take the more care of the boy: Mother has not determined fully whether or not to go to Mass. — we are trying to persuade her to do so, and think she will, but not probably until I start for Chicago about the middle of August: unless I can persuade Charles to go with her, and to the world's fair I very much wish he he would be induced to go: his mind <u>needs</u> the change the enlargement, the variety and impetus, the sort of spring and elasticity that such a journey would give him the health both of body and mind would be in better tone for it ever afterwards: I fear he will consider it too great an undertaking and especially too expensive for him.

We see very little of Elias: his business has been pressing this season: he feels obliged to devote himself the more closely, because his partner's health is so poor, and perhaps too, because ~~he has~~, on account of his losses, &c, he must make his labour serve instead of capital at present. He and Sis Maria seem most truly happy: she gains daily in our affection and esteem as we become better acquainted She is very affectionate and winning in her manners and

seems to possess much energy of character and good taste. She is extremely nice and particular in all her ways; every thing is done just right. I wish you could [illegible] with me to day to her room and sit and talk with her awhile: I hope it will not be very long before you will have opportunity to see and talk with, not only your new sister, but your other sisters and brothers here.

Oh, I must tell you of her presents. She has received many valuable ones, from her pupils and friends. Vases, Card racks elegant fans, superb silver cake basket half a dozen smaller articles as butter knife, salt & cream spoons; &c. gold thimble, silver bouquet holder, a collar & [illegible] wrought hdkd. each five dollars: one of her pupils a [illegible] from North Carolina presented her with a night cap of her own work the most exquisite, nice, of any thing I ever saw. – the materials the nicest linen cambric and lace edging which with the work would not be worth less than eight or nine dollars; it is altogether too nice a thing to wear, fit only to look at as a curiosity. She has been here with Eliab a number of times & I have been over to their room with my work several days, but it is not like being all together in the same family; we do not yet feel well acquainted, but we hope in time to love her as we do our darling sister Nettie.

Sat. afternoon Samuel and Eliab were engaged in quite a little harass – a drunken Irishman who was very disorderly was taken up by the constable and rescued by a stout Yankee partly intoxicated; it was near Brown's Store and several men among them our brothers be[illegible]

Bangor May 23 - Sister Anna
Du Fresne Lane 1853

lent assistance to sustain law and succeeded [illegible]
in securing him and [illegible] Yankee too who were both
carried by a member of [illegible] through the streets to the
watch house: Eliab afterwards had a long talk with the
Yankee who appeared ashamed and penitent and
[illegible] made an effort yesterday (Sunday) to get him re-
leased before [illegible] [illegible] before the [illegible] - I have
not heard whether he succeeded but presume he did.
I suppose not a little liquor is sold here still though
the officers are much more effective this year than
last. - Our ministers are all absent now for three
or four Sabbaths and we are served with strangers
which is not quite so pleasant. Maria has taken a
class in the Sabbath school: Prof. Shepherd and wife
[illegible] [illegible] father well in Connecticut and Mrs. Jenk-
ins also, one of the church. She seems much pleased with
Bangor and its inhabitants. I am glad you have a
[illegible] to ride in: I should not like [illegible] [illegible] to
riding horseback, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
The season is two or three weeks earlier than usual [illegible]
the fields and woods wear [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] the wonderful changes [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
summer freshness. the green grass on the terrace quite
waves in the wind and is speckled all over with dandelion
blossoms: the new cherry trees have a few blossoms on them
the roses under the windows are [illegible] out finely
for luxuriance and beauty this cold and sterile re-
gion cannot compare with your fine climate yet the
sons and daughters of New Eng. must love best their own
hard soil and bracing air: God has set one thing over
against another? Excuse this rambling and hasty letter and write soon
my dear brother and sister to your [illegible] Anna.

(My best regards to your parents & much love to yourself)

Clayton Aug. 8th /60.

Dear Sister Mollie

I suppose you are well apprised of all the news & matters of interest Jimmie writes so frequently, yet I must write a little to tell you how much I want to see you & to tell over as usual, all the little items of nothings as well as somethings' that chequer the routine of every day life.

The week you left, besides coming Jenny's visit, the girls were both invited to a large party at Mr. Gates': invitation given at 7: entertainment at ten: &c. I worked busily the day pre-ceding, cutting down dresses, re-furbish-ing, fitting, & fixing' & the girls went quite satisfied with their toilet. H. enjoyed the company indifferently, Libby very much: they returned at 1 o'c. felt none the better the next day for it.

A week or two after, we spent a very

I had much rather not have my dress watered but a good brown - that fringe not colored. Affect Anna

pleasant day picnicing at the Junction: it was all arranged hastily the evening before — but by dint of rising early H. & I contrived to have a good large basket full of the 'goodies' (making biscuit & cake in the morning) ready for the rendezvous at Mr. Crane's garden: there were 25 in all; Mr. & Mrs. Jenkins, Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur, all Judge Bliss' family including Mrs. & Miss Harrison, - the Misses Crandall Mary Darling, E. Crane, Hattie & Libby; Mr. Nelson, & young Hayhurst also. Isaac & Charles were invited as being widower[ed] gentleman as well as Mr. Nelson the Doctor too who promised to go but was prevented by bank business. Charles & Isaac thought they could not leave to go: I was sorry they did not, they would have enjoyed it.
We (the ladies) set out with our baskets about ten, spread a table high up on a rock, & dined at 12½ o clock at which time the gentlemen arrived.
The weather was charming, recent rain

had made all so clean & fresh, yet
the ground was not damp. it was
truly a delightful day to me; you know
I seldom now 'abandon' myself to a
day's enjoyment: you would have enjoy-
ed it much: I hope you are drinking
in enjoyment & breathing health
every day. Do not allow home anx-
ieties to mar your pleasure - all are
getting along finely as you doubtless
hear from day to day. Wilder has been
with us yet but little more than a week,
he is a very good boy, scarce any
trouble - behaves like a little gentle-
man at table & every where. he & Mary
change places every Sat night, to go
to church Sunday. Isaac has nearly
recovered from his cough, Charles
looks fleshy for him & contented, Mother
seems very cheerful & hopeful, is
well as usual. little baby May is taken
good care of - is watched tenderly &
carefully. has not been sick at all though

other teeth trouble her, & she is not really well. Cousin Jenny goes east in a week with her father; Hattie is going tomorrow to help her the rest of the week; she is knitting me a clarapotea of pink & white, - intends to knit one for Jenny before she goes:

Hiram is at home. Mrs. Arthur Ely has a fine son, (name Arthur Heman, she has had a very good time; is in fine spirits; Mrs. Heman looks ill: she has a house full of young company from Cleveland, Cincinnati. =

I called to see Jenny & Mrs. Brooks last week - she is coming to spend a day here next week, with the rest to tea.

Hattie sees her very often; she is in good spirits; Mrs. Finn has gone on to Niagara her husband goes in a week to join her there & go on their tour eastward. We are having some very warm weather now. I have been meaning to send word before this about the dyeing, hoping you have not yet sent the things

Boston Jan. 18th 18[illegible]

Dear Brother

Aunt Esther arrived here Saturday [illegible] unexpectedly on her way to [illegible]. She did not think of coming through Boston when she left home, when you saw her I suppose, but when she arrived at Portland she found it expedient to do so, and we are very glad she did. She had as comfortable and agreeable a journey as could be expected at this season of the year, she is quite well, will spend a week or two with us before proceeding on her journey. I am very glad ~~to learn~~ that you have the privilege of attending school at Bangor this winter & especially I esteem it a favour that you have so good a place to stay. I am glad you are studying. Patiently try my dear brother, to make all the improvement you can do not let any little difficulty in understanding your lessons, discourage you or above all, any feelings of indolence, or distaste to the requisite exertion, hinder your progress, ~~but~~ persevere, remembering that no eminent acquirements can be possessed, without labour, & that time once misspent, can never be recalled, ~~but~~ I presume you have thought of all this, & feel the importance of making the most of [illegible] time and privileges, I well know that you have never been an idle scholar in school, — endeavour, both in school & out of school to improve and elevate your mind and character: cultivate a dignified, but easy and natural style of manners and carriage stoop to nothing really low or mean and be ashamed of nothing that is {not so.

Almeida's health is pretty good this winter, James enjoys good health, my health is as usual perfectly good. Lucy is now quite well and happy and very desirous of staying longer than until next spring, she is improving finely in her studies she has just be commenced drawing, and makes pretty good progress in it, she is studying History, Grammar, Arithmetic, & Geography in connection with drawing maps, she is writing through a course of Foster's system of writing:— Do you attend much to writing? Have you any other studies besides Latin & Philosophy? Do you write composition? Lucy does once a fortnight.— My school is flourishing and pleasant, I have 22 or 23 scholars, only 3, under seven years of age,— I have a class of nine girls from 11 to 14, years of age, 4 or 5 of them learn drawing, and I expect to form a class in French this week, I use Comstock's Philosophy:— My terms are, from 4 to 10 dolls per quar. I have had no more than 8. dolls. for any, yet, but shall have ~~whe~~ more for those who study French. We received a letter from Mayo a few days since, he was quite well, he is a member of a debating club, on the brook, and of the town Lyceum & has access to 2 libraries, but I fear he reads too much, & that it would be better for him to [illegible] more of the time. Aunt C. wrote that, he reads and studies all his time nights and mornings, I suppose the school has closed now, & we shall write to him soon, to visit ~~his~~ Uncle at Royalston and then come here, and stay as long as Mother & Charles think best,— Cousin Caleb spent a sabbath with us, about two months since, he is at Andover pursuing his studies with ardour, though he is employed part of this winter in teaching a school at Harvard;— he is all engaged in the Languages.

Mr Caleb's [illegible] family are well, Cousin Pelatiah's widow has been with them now a [illegible] this winter. [illegible] Have you heard of the sudden death of Col. E. [illegible]

Col. Elial Metcalf was well only a week before his death. his ~~that~~ loss is deeply felt for he was extensively known and much beloved: ~~thus~~ thus we see one after another dropping into the grave, some very unexpectedly, let us take warning by it and see to it that we are prepared for this great change for we know not how soon we shall be called hence: We know that it is the path of wisdom and happiness to remember our Creator in the days of our youth, & secure an interest in the Saviour while it is an accepted time and a day of salvation. I suppose you attend Sabbath School do not misimprove such "valuable privilege — you have, until now, for a long time, — been situated at at distance from great vices or great temptations — now you must take care and avoid all evil, and withstand all temptation to do any thing but just right; especially avoid the company of bad boys, attend to personal neatness & finally you must try to be a very good boy. I think I have given you enough advice for one letter, so I will conclude by saying that I want you should write to me very so[on] [illegible] & direct your letter to the care of James, No 2 Wash. Str.

Your affectionate Sister E. A. K[illegible]

S. T. Metcalf.

P. S. you can send this letter to Mother if you have an opportunity to do it soon as she will be anxious to hear from Aunt Esther.

Anne
Boston
Jan. 1836

Bangor

PAID

Master Lucius L. Medcalf
Bangor Me.
At Mrs. M. Parker's

[illegible]
reads and studies all his time night and mornings, I sup-
pose the school has closed now, & we shall write to him soon,
to visit ~~his~~ Uncle at Royalston and then come here, and
stay as long as Mother & Charles think best. — Cousin Ca-
leb spent a sabbath with us, about two months since, he is at
Andover pursuing his studies with ardour, though he is employ-
ed part of this winter in teaching a school at Harvard; — he is
all engaged in the languages.

[illegible] been with [illegible] Col. C. [illegible]

Boston June 13th 1839

Dear brother Isaac

I received your letter about a month since and was very glad indeed to learn your situation, privileges, and how you enjoy yourself. I intended to answer it long before this, but have had so many things to take up my time, that I have neglected (not forgotten) it from day to day. Joseph I suppose told you that Almeida was confined to her bed, when he left, and she had to keep her room, chiefly, for several weeks after so that much of my time has been taken up in attending to her, the children, and necessary domestic affairs: we have, ~~too~~, had more company than usual of late: cousin Colt from Yale College, where he now thus supports himself by teaching vocal music ~~singing~~ — was here some of his vacation: he entered college last fall; he is quite gentlemanly in appearance and manners and is a thorough scholar in the languages; in respect to his other attainments I do not know. his father has removed to Amoskeag a place in N. H. much more new, than Milo, but containing a valuable water privilege. Cousins Abby and Esther Williams spent two or three days here about a fortnight ago; — they are residing at Royalston now, where they work at the tailor's trade. Joseph A. Stevens who called here before Joseph went, is now, ~~teaching school~~ assistant teacher in a school at Troy N. Y. Moses Greenleaf and Martha, & the [illegible], were here a day or two on their way to Templeton and started from here early last Friday morning, to go by land from Portland: we sent a trunk to Mother by them, & in it a stock and handkerchief for you, which perhaps you will get before you receive this; Almeida intends to have Lucy come and live with her, if mother can spare her, though I fear she will find it hard to ~~do~~ without her; — I see I have filled the page without beginning an answer to yours but only telling the reason I ~~did~~ not write sooner.

and first I was agreeably surprised to hear you were at Bangor; it seems you have been there about two months; I do not wonder that you found some difficulty in getting admittance; I presume Joseph would not have been admitted here if it had been known that he lived in another town and state too, but I simply told the teacher that his father used to teach here before his death, and that J. had been out of town for some time, and no further questions were asked. I should think from your account that you are well situated: you certainly are as to the expense; and if the teacher is the right sort of man, it is a great advantage to be in his family. I should not like his pipe — it is entirely out of place for a teacher, especially in this age of improvements! I should think you would have to work rather hard to turn his new land into a garden, besides all your chores; I hope you can have some time out of school to study. You did not mention whether Mr Worcester is a pious man, or any thing about your attending meeting or bible class, which I wonder at; I suppose you did not think of it, but I want you should in your next, tell me particularly about your religious privileges and prospects and your feelings in relation to them. I should think you would well to ~~[illegible]~~ make efforts to cultivate the friendly regards of Mr. Wakefield, especially if he is pious. It is well for the young to try to gain friends among those who possess true moral worth, and the way to do this, is by an upright, independent and manly course of conduct — acting upon the principle of doing right — not fearing the face of any man, but fearing God, — paying a proper degree of respect and attention to all around you; endeavour as far as you can to please and serve others, but never lose sight of the respect due to yourself: I mean by this, go forward nobly and conscientiously in the path of duty whatever that is in the circumstances in which you are placed, and not suffer yourself to be mortified or feel degraded by any slights or sneers arising from external circumstances: it is true you are not wealthy and you cannot dress with all the finery nor indulge in the luxuries of those who are, but you can be neat in your dress and appearance, you can be kind, respectful and dignified in your manners, you can possess ~~[illegible]~~ a cultivated and well stored mind and amiable and affectionate feelings, and such a character constitutes the true gentleman: True faith in Christ, and supreme love to his will, more than all things else, lead to the formation of such a character, because that faith in

Christ that purifies the heart and works by love, is the only thing that enables us to overcome the world and rise above it, - and supreme love to God will always manifest itself in love to our fellow men and desire to do them good.

My dear brother I want you should become a christian; till you decide the question whether you will serve the Saviour or the god of this world, I can not answer your question what you had better do; now is the time for you to make your peace with God now is time surely, when you need to cry unto God "My Father thou art the guide of my youth" Jer. 3:4. — You are, as it were, just launching forth upon the ocean of life; — the world with all its snares, temptations delusions and vanities, is before you; O how much you need God for your father, the Saviour for your friend and master, and the Holy Spirit for your guide and Comforter. Think how many years of your life have been spent in vanity and thoughtlessness — in rebellion and sin — how many precious opportunities for securing the pearl of great price, have been forever lost, and their account sealed up for eternity O fear les[illegible]day of grace be over, and you left — a hardened sinner. & the [illegible] dear bro[illegible] put off this subject, make an effort to give your thoughts the[illegible] subject, it is an easy thing to put off religion to live along without any serious concern for the soul - the want of serious consideration, has been the ruin of thousands who meant to ~~have~~ repent before death but who neglected the subject from day to day Heb. 3:13, 15 — 4: Isa. 55: 6-9 ————

June 17th Lucy arrived here safely sat. morning; Almeda's health is better; she is able to ride out, has walked to meeting once, goes up and down stairs, but has to be very careful; the children are well. I was very glad to hear by Lucy that you are in another boarding place and so good an one; endeavour to improve all the means in your power ~~of~~ gain an easy agreeable manner and address: seek the friendship of the truly pious; - learn the art of expressing your thoughts in conversation with ease and propriety; be sure and be neat in your dress and appearance & I think it important, if possible, that you should dress decently well; write word what clothes you are in need of, and what books you need & I will do what I can about getting them when I come. Study the bible — read the Student's Manual — try to be methodical, rise above little mortifications — write often and particularly to all of us. and in fine do just right. I expect you will laugh, in spite of all my serious advice) so goodbye E. A. R.

Ann
June 17th Boston
~~June 20th~~ 1839

JUN
17

Mr Isaac P. Metcalf
Bangor Me.

Bangor
1839

Sister Ann, July 18 1839

S. Bangs, Aug 1839

Boston July 18th 1839

Dear Brother

I received your letter in due season and was happy to learn from it your good health, good spirits and I trust good progress. A friend starts tomorrow for Bangor, and I improve the opportunity to scribble a few lines in answer to yours, but you must not expect a very long, or a very sensible letter this time, for I have only two hours in which to finish the letter to Mother and this, and, besides, a little accident happened to one of my eyes a day or two since, which makes it a little painful when closely applying myself to writing or reading. We have not heard from Mother since I wrote you, but expect to every day. We are all well, James has had an ill turn but is better; Almeda is pretty well now, but cannot walk yet; little Lucy is not very well to day, owing to the heat perhaps; sister Lucy enjoys herself very well, has not got much acquainted yet; it seemed rather odd to me at first to go to meeting and about, with a sister taller than myself; I suppose you have grown out of my knowledge quite as much as she has: but you are old enough to attain the growth and stature of a man - a tall man — I like to see a tall man, — but be sure and have your intellectual and moral growth correspond with your physical, and then you will be a man indeed. We had a Sabbath school celebration of the 4th which was very interesting & with which Lucy was exceedingly delighted, particularly the singing which was performed, entirely by about a hundred little girls & which was really very fine. Did you read an account of the steamboat excursion of the sabbath schools of New York? The great temperance dinner you have I suppose seen a notice of: it is said to have been the greatest occasion of the kind ever known here. Mr. Whipple and Bush attended it, and James probably would, but he wished

out of town that day, so he got a carryall, and we all, (six precious souls) went out to Dedham. Lucy went to see the fire works in the evening. Little James R. is a very clever, nice little fellow, sober, goodnatured, and knowing, - will be four months old next Sat. Joseph's dear friend ~~little~~ 'Barney' has sent a letter to him, which I shall enclose with this, and you must forward it to him as soon as you can, and brother's too. I intend to start for Bangor the 20th of Aug. at which time I suppose you will not be there, I shall be sorry not to have you there, to go round with me and show me the improvements of the place, but I should be still more sorry not to be at home while you were there. You must write previous to my coming, and let me know whether you expect to be there or not, and, also, whether there are any books or clothes wanting, which I am to purchase. Write to me more particularly about the allotment of your time, about your work and study, and whether you have any time to read, and if so, whether your reading is only desultory or after a plan, and particularly do you read in the Bible every day with a sincere desire and effort to understand it? Do you prepare well for your bible class and are you benefitted by it? Do you attend meetings as far as consistent with other engagements? finally are you striving to grow wiser and better for eternity as well as for time? My time has nearly expired and the pain in my eye reminds me that I must stop writing, - so Good-bye.

Your affectionate Sister

E. A. Rich.

I. S. Metcalf.

P. S. The Testament you mentioned I will endeavour to get and bring when I come.

Dear Isaac dont be frightened about Ann's eye it is only a spark of fire snapped so as to burn a little just by the corner it will be over in a day or so your sis

Milo Oct. 8th 18[illegible]

Dear Brother

Mr. Lee starts for Bangor to day and I will write a line just to tell you the news.

We some expect Joseph will go right away to Boston. Mr Whipple sent word that he expects to want a boy in his store, and if he does want one, would like Joseph and will give him $2,50 per week the first year, $3,00 the next, and $20 addition the third; We all think it just the chance for him to go there; even if he should stay only a year or two, and then study, or do some thing else:--we are afraid he can't go, but we shall hear I expect [illegible] week about it and if he does go, it will probably be soon;

Mother thinks if you cannot sell the wool for about, 50 you had better send it right up by Mr. Cutts as Charles can sell it for that at Sebec or somewhere about here. We want a barrel of flour, and if you send the wool home, he will send some money to you, and try to buy the flour, some other way. If Joseph goes, Charles will go down with him; if he (Joseph) does not, I do n't know as C. will go at present.

We received a letter from you last Friday by way of Mr Cutts instead of Mr. Hatch which got opened through mistake at Mr. Mitchell's and left at Mr Hill's. I feel quite encouraged about a chance for school, and shall prepare myself so as to be all ready if here is a chance. How clever it would be for you and I, to be there together. Go on with your studies with good courage, Remember the value of time especially ~~[illegible]~~ spring time, of which it is said none know the value, till it is past.

E. C.

Sister Ann
Oct. 8th Milo
1839

Milo

Mr. Isaac S. Metcalf
at Mr. A. Walker
Bangor Me.

Bangor
Oct. 1839

Tuesday Eve. Nov. 26th.

Dear brother

The bundle you have heard of so many times, I hope you will receive as soon as you do this, but you will find it to consist only of the pair of sale pants, and your cloth of which Mother says, get your pantaloons made right up as soon as possible no matter about paying Mr. Fox, "down" but you can wait till you sell the pants or it can wait till Charles ~~till~~ goes with the butter & turkeys or something if we could have had the cloth one day sooner we could have sent it by Mr. Thomas last week: but if you have spoken with Mr. Fox about your work beforehand you can have your pantaloons in a short time and your jacket you can bring, (cut) to be made here.

Charles broke the bones badly of his middle finger of left hand by a stone falling on it, while underpinning the barn shed: he put the bones in place himself, and then went to the doctor and got it bandaged: it does not pain him much, but he won't be able to use it any, for two or three weeks, but he makes out to fix the barn some, with Eliab to wait upon him. We had a very violent rain-storm yesterday, ~~which~~ has raised the river most to the garden.

Dear Son N. B. we can and do give you ever so many directions but after all you must act your own judgment and do according to circumstances I am ~~knitting~~ you some mittens and going to knit a pr of worsted Gloves but cannot send them before you'll be home & some suspenders but if you want some now you had better buy some

Am Milo
Nov 26th 1839

Milo

Mr. Isaac S. Metcalf.
Bangor Me

By Mr. Thomas

Bangor
Nov. 183[illegible]

Milo Sept. 30th 1839.

Dear brother

I have not time to write much of a letter but will scribble a few words to send by Mr. Hatch, as Charles has about concluded not to go to Bangor till the things to send to Boston are ready. Several reasons have led him to this conclusion; it is very difficult for him to leave his work now, and there being no ferry boat he would be obliged to go round through Atkinson; he has already bought some wheat and intends to buy enough more if he can to last till he threshes. You had better sell the wool as soon as you can for about, 50 per lb. At Exeter the best wool is selling for, 60 and ordinary quality for, 50: if you find a market for it, take what money you need for immediate use and send the remainder home in a letter: send home as much as half the price of the wool if possible, and Mother says she shall have some cloth for pantaloons and jacket for you in four or five weeks and you had better get along with your frock coat till then if you can. Charles and I had a very pleasant time at Exeter: he was I believe interested and pleased with the cows, calves, ploughing match &c. and I was gratified with the display of domestic manufactures, which were of very good quality, though but few in number; I enjoyed my visit to Mr. Cutler's & Upham's very much. Aaron & Naomi Hill went over, — The address by Mr. Sanborn was good; he spoke of the implements of husbandry, of tillage, of planting, cropping, and of stock, and he did well upon each of these topics. We were gone from Wednes. morning till Friday afternoon, C. did not like to leave his work so long but was glad he did. C. has not got

[Margin:] are honey & bees wax a little of each and perhaps potatoes but I guess not

ready to plough yet, nor any of his potatoes dug; he is going to put them at the head of the intervale into a hole dug for them there; he cuts twice the hay there that he did last year and is going to stack it there.

We have had a very pleasant visit from Mr. Hatch, he came up to attend the dedication at Brownville, and has waited for Mr. Dow to return from a journey to Kennebeck, in hopes to get his money they say Mr. Dow expected to borrow some there for the town, - but he has not yet returned, and Mr. Hatch thinks he cannot wait any longer than to day; so probably he will be obliged to go back without it which will be a serious disappointment to him. ———

Now as to my affairs, — I feel very desirous of getting a place there should there be any opportunity and I think it important to use all the exertion and management in our power to obtain it. — Mr. Abbot is I believe the secretary of the committee, and if so he is the one to apply to, rather than any other member and I want you should go to him with my card and recommendation, and make a regular application for the situation of assistant in Mr. Turner's high School, should they want one: tell him to inquire of Mr. Pomroy for further information. If he says there will be no vacancy, or gives no encouragement, then inquire particularly about the other public schools, and also what chance for private schools

my Dear Son my thoughts are often with you and I hoped to have written a long letter before now but I have been very much engaged with a spinner here and some company &c &c I am aware that you have needed a common kind of a jacket & Shoes &c &c very much I am a little apprehensive that another quarter will come round before you get [illegible] prepaid for this as I intended you should be but I suppose you are not more tinged for want of money than Mr. H. Mr E. Cutts is to be in Bangor this week and if you have sold the wool or if you can sell it to your mind & if you can get a good Barrel of flour, & have enough left for your present purpose i. e. to pay for your Boots get you some shoes and any thing else that you must have — then you may get a Barrel and send it up by Mr Cutts but if you need money use it & we will get along as best we can — You say you are losing flesh and strength which gives me no little anxiety but I hope and expect since it has got to be colder weather you are gaining it again write as often and as particularly as you can

I should have sent your old shoes but they did not seem to be worth it you must get you a pr. — I shall have some good cloth for you a jacket and pantaloons when I can get it wove and dress'd which will be probably 3 or 4 weeks. Oct. 1st. We have had Mr. Lee's oxen part of today and have got ~~in~~ in the rest of the seed hay & topped out the stack, ~~there~~ 2 loads of oats from the upper end of the interval, and the barley. The stack comes up higher than the eaves of the barn. Hero met with a sad mishap yesterday. I was going down to the field to mowing bushes & he set out to run by me & ran right on to the scythe, cut him very badly on bothe fore & hind leg. Charles sewed up the worst wound. he is getting along well I guess. It is bedtime. I cant very well write any more here now. Affectionately Joseph
one sheep has died of disease since you left home. brother

Ann. Mother
Oct. 18 Milo
1839

1839
Ann. and Mother
Oct. 18 - 2

Mr Isaac S. Metcalf
Bangor

Bangor
Oct. 1839

Aug. 22d 1842

Dear Brother

I have been meditating a letter to you for a long time, and can hardly tell why I have not written except that my mind has been much occupied with my school and other engagements so that I have put it off from day to day, and "procrastination is (truly) the thief of time."

I closed my school last Wednes. and expect to go home next Thurs. (1st Sept — I concluded to stay this time, until after Commencement as there are going to be several things of interest that week.

I had on the whole a very good examination; I think the best I have ever had; have heard considerable commendation of it. I keep every forenoon for my first class only, consisting of 15, to whom I expect to give certificates into Mr Littlefield's; and I wish to get them so well qualified that they will do credit to themselves and their teacher too: this is of course a work of supererogation, but my pride is roused to have them go in, with flying colours, especially, as those who went in before, were poorly qualified, and some blame was cast upon me, in consequence, I think I shall keep this school next winter at least. Mr. Worcester's school has been small this term, only 32 at examination: they appeared well.

It is surprising that more do not avail themselves of their advantages here, — how glad Elial would be, of the opportunity to attend that school a year or two. What is to be done for Elial this fall, he must in some way have some schooling, and what are your intentions for yourself, I rather hope that you do not intend to

stay much longer where you now are. I have been thinking that you might pursue your studies to advantage here. I visited the Seminary the other day, went in to see the library which is quite a respectable one, and saw the rooms for students: they are large and pleasant, having two sleeping rooms belonging to each.

Properly speaking, there is no Classical school now, but there are several preparing for college, under the tuition of some of the Theological Students paying a low tuition: they have all the privileges of the Seminary the use of a room &c.; board including washing and mending is from 1,00 to 1,25. Now I have been thinking that you might come at the commencement of next term, about the middle of Oct. stay two months or so, for which you could easily provide the means, — I owe you 8,00 and could let you have some more; in mid winter you could take a school of two or three months, the avails of which, would carry you through the next term of the Institution, when you would be ready to enter college. The expenses would be less than at any academy, and the advantages (in all respects — of preparing for future usefulness, greater.

I hope you will guard against indecision; — the great bane to progress in any thing good. We ought certainly to look at a subject enough to see it in all its bearings as far as we are able, but it seems to me, this can be done better, at once, by fixing the mind in earnest, than by putting off the decision, and keeping the mind balancing, to and fro. Judging from ~~my own experience~~ the operations of my own mind, I should say, that we become in a sense unable, or at least, that it is much more difficult to judge with clearness, after balancing a thing a long time.

It seems to me very important to acquire a habit of promptitude & decision, in little things, even at the expense of some failures and mistakes,

for if a habit of wavering becomes fixed in the mind, it seems to destroy energy of character without which, a man is ~~good~~ but poorly-qualified to make his way through the world, let his situation be what it may.

If this is true in the affairs of ordinary life, is it not much more so in religion? I am sure the greatest hindrance I have had to progress in the things of religion, has been a failure in acting up promptly to the dictates of conscience, particularly in little things; A wavering mind as well as failure and neglect of duty, brings doubt and darkness on the mind and leads to unbelief, against which young converts, especially, need to set a watch.

In cases of conversion which are marked and striking in their character, there is less danger from this source than in the more common cases, where the change is so gradual, that the individual cannot himself tell the precise time when he was renewed in the spirit of his mind; the question, whether this great change has indeed taken place, is to be determined by your present willingness to do what God requires, as I read to-day in one of Nevin's sermons; — he says. — "Are you willing to accept of Christ as your substitute and Surety, to be cleansed by his blood, to be clothed with his righteousness, to sit at his feet? Are you ready to be evermore his devoted disciple, and to glorify God with your body and spirit, which are his?" "I do not ask if you foresee your ability to do all implied in this, and foresee that you will actually fulfill all that this resolution imports; but I ask you in regard to your present willingness. God will provide for the rest."

I have just finished reading the life of Swartz, who went to India in 1750 and laboured more than 50 years; — it is without exception the most interesting memoir I ever read, it makes one feel the nobleness of being entirely devoted to the service of God and the good of man. ———

Mr. Walker has enlisted heart and hand with the political abolitionists or liberty men as they term themselves, and were I a man I

think I should too. They have a great revival on the 1st and 2d of Sept. and if Charles comes after me I am going to try to make him stop one day to attend it.

I suppose you are still at Exeter, having heard nothing to the contrary so I shall send this there but hope you will be at home while I am there. E. A.

E. A. Rich
Aug. 15th 1842
Bangor

Mr. Isaac S. Metcalf
Care of John Cutler Esq
Exeter Me.

Exeter
Nov. 29th 1842

Dear Brother Isaac Bangor Nov. 8th 1842

Having a favorable opportunity to send to you I will improve it by writing a few lines. If I had a little more time at command, I would use my sisterly prerogative in filling up this sheet with all sorts of good advice and grave reflections but you will escape much infliction of that sort this time, as I shall only have the time between schools to scratch down a few words to send tomorrow by the delegate to Mr. Parker's installation. Is it not strange that they should settle so strong an abolitionist after finding so much fault on that account, with Mr. Wells? I am glad Mr. P. is going there, hope he will be the means of doing much good there Charles was down last Thurs. brought me letters from mother and Lucy the first news I had heard from home since I left. he brought the news of the fire at the mills: that is quite a blow to its infant prosperity from which it will probably take it a long time to recover; I suppose you know more about home than I do, and hear oftener so I can tell you no news neither did they write much. If Mr. Sandford the bearer of this (he boards where I do, is a member of Mr. P's church and of the young men's Bible class, and one of the best fellows in the world — I say if he calls and hands you this, I wish you would be peculiarly civil, sociable, and polite to him and by all means write to me by him all of you; I want very much to know your present situation, prospects about schools &c. In regard to your going to College, I think it a subject to be weighed and prayed over, that if entered upon, it may be with right motives. Good talents, a love for study, and ample means to defray expenses, furnish I should think, sufficient inducements for any young man in good health, to engage in a course of study; but, when in addition to the unceasing labor of acquiring knowledge, a constant struggle must be

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maintained with the various vexations and mortifications of poverty, with the care and exertions to obtain means to defray expenses, then, nothing but a deep seated and earnest desire to promote the Glory of God in the conversion of souls, can sustain and carry one forward in this course of toil and self-denial. May you consider it well and be guided aright in the path of duty. — I have taken up ~~rather~~ in writing to you rather more than ~~by~~ your share of the paper therefore I will stop short now, and

Dear brother Joseph begin a short epistle to you in which I will first give a few items of information about myself: first, I enjoy excellent health and good spirits, drink neither coffee nor tea, and am pleasantly situated at my new boarding place, just across the street from Mr. P's church, on Broad-&way.

The family consists of Mr. & Mrs. Sylvester and seven children two of whom are at sea a gentleman and his wife just married — and four gentlemen boarders, making in all, a family of 16 persons. The three eldest sons, two of whom are twins, and all three between the ages of 21 and 23, follow the sea though one is at home now on account of poor health, was unfortunate and lost all his wages, was sick in a hospital &c. One son has lately ~~come~~ been at home who goes second mate, after being common sailor for five years — he receives 25 per month now, and expects to be able to get a captain's birth soon. He says no one can expect to go as master or mate till after going before the mast at least five years, but enough of sailor business, in which I conclude you do not take much interest now: I want you should write me ~~one~~ of your real particular letters, giving a faithful and detailed account of your situation, pursuits and especially the employments of your time out of school I hope you do not pay away your money and spend your time in that foolery which may be properly called acting out the boys — you perceive I am thinking of some scenes and incidents which I have witnessed in time past when you three boys have been together, at home, but I trust your minds are occupied with useful things now.

There is very little of interest going on here now, Mr. Bradbourne

This is not just such a letter as I would gladly have written if I had had time to arrange my thoughts better but such as it is I must send and answer to your affectionate sister E. Ann ~~B~~

boys, I [illegible] you [illegible] so dear [illegible] among yourselves

an Anti-Slavery lecturer from Rhode Island who is by some called a shrewd smart man and by others a blackguard, has been lecturing almost every night this fortnight and Mr Walker likes him much; the liberty party have had quite a triumph having prevented any choice of representatives five times; my school room, being a ward room, was a place for voting so that I and my scholars were turned out liberty men for the day, every time they voted. Mr J. H. Whipple the veritable man spent a week in Bangor about a month ago. I saw him in our Sabbath School, but before I could speak to him he was gone; he looks in much better health than I ever before saw him; his residence at New Orleans has been beneficial to him I suppose. Have you engaged a school yet or do you expect to? and how long are you and Isaac intending to stay there? I am truly glad you are going to have such a good minister as Mr. Parker, I hope you will all profit much by the privileges you enjoy. I depend upon a letter from you and the other boys by this opportunity, you can certainly find time because your school of course will not keep Installation day, and you can have time to write me a good long letter besides attending meeting. Why do <u>you</u> not attend writing school?

Dear brother Elias I have used up as you see most all my paper and as you may have reason to think, exhausted most all my stock of ideas, but I will just say that I want to know how you get along with your studies, how you like the school and what improvement you are making; write me an account of yourself, what you are studying, whether you write composition, how often you attend to writing, how far from the academy you board &c &c. My school is tolerably pleasant, about 50 in number we have had extremely pleasant weather here all the fall which is quite favorable for me — Some persons here are almost running stark mad after Miller doctrines. One of the students has been dismissed from the Seminary on account of his extravagant conduct. A Mrs. Marden whom all rational people think is deranged, holds Miller meetings every eve at her house, confidently affirming that next April will be the end of the world.

Boys, I hope you will hold social prayer among yourselves.

Miss. E. A. Rich
Nov. 9th, 1842
Bangor

Mr. Isaac S. Metcalf
Foxcroft Me.
At Mr. Vaughan's

Foxcroft
Nov. 18th, 1842

Thursday Sept. 15th 1843,

Write to say that I have come to the conclusion to keep only a fortnight longer that is, one week after this. — I do not change board, but should have gone to Mrs Seavy's if I had, which would have been very unpleasant, as she has 14 or 15 men boarders: There are several reasons why I decide to leave, — the school has been so long that the scholars have got tired of studying, and will I think be likely to pass a better examination in a fortnight, than a month, several have to stay at home so that older ones can go to the Academy. but the most cogent reason of all is, *I do not want to stay here* another month, and I had rather earn the three dolls another time. — I shall close a week from tomorrow, (Friday) night. and I suppose Isaac is intending to commence at school then, and it will come right to come then. I have sent for a dozen and half of juvenile tracts by Mr. Prentiss, who goes to Bangor tomorrow, am afraid I shall not have money enough — I have bought a pair of shoes for ,75 — but I can pay Mr. Prentiss after I have closed my school, and if I do not get the money, whoever comes after me, must let me have ten or twelve cents ——

Young Gates has come here to board and takes my chamber, I have the spare bedroom, which I must give up if they have company, — They want Isaac should board here, and I don't believe he would find a better place, on the whole; she inquired whether he had made any arrangements about board — but he can decide about it when he comes — they have above 70 scholars — an unusual number to begin with,

E. A. R.

Ans.
Sept 8 - 1843.
B ~~Bange~~ Foxcroft

Mr. T. J. Metcalf

Brownville June 22^d 1844.

Dear Brother

It is a long time since I have either written to, or received a letter from you, though I believe I have done my duty rather better than you, for I wrote you one letter from Warwick, and a piece of another just before your last visit at home. I was sorry it happened so that I saw so little of you, when you were at home: I have scarcely seen you for a year, and one's feelings and habits of thought sometimes alter rapidly,—and undergo such transitions at your susceptible age, that ere long I shall scarcely feel that I am acquainted with you as a sister should be,—an elder sister,— with that interior apartment of the thoughts and feelings, which alone furnishes the key to the character;

If we are ourselves, duly acquainted with this 'inner chamber' of the soul we shall find frequent occasion to employ the true light of experience, to correct false estimates, erroneous impressions, and unwarrantable conclusions, and, though this is especially the case, in early youth, yet I suppose we can at almost any period of our lives, in taking a retrospect of a few years, find our views of things materially changed; not indeed in the immutable principles of truth and duty; but in the views we take of the various external circumstances influencing our conduct: and well for us it is, if we are thus instructed and disciplined, by all the scenes through which we are passing, and led on [illegible] [illegible]

constant,—though to us,—imperceptible progression, 'onward and upward,' in wisdom and knowledge.

Progression seems stamped upon our very nature, and it should be our care, that our progress be not from self-ignorance to vanity and self-conceit, but from a just sense of our own deficiencies, to the attainment of 'whatsoever things are honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report.' Solomon calls him a fool, who is wise in his own eyes, and certain it is, that the knowledge, which experience brings to a rightly biassed mind, leads to true humility.

I think, if we analyze closely the state of mind, produced by, and accompanying, ~~real~~ Christian humility, we shall be convinced that, one of its important elements, is, a just estimate of one's self,—which is the only solid foundation of that self-reliance, self-possession,—or if you please, self-esteem,—so essential to success in life. Self-confidence may, it is true, arise from an overweening self-conceit, but such will, if not corrected by the teachings of experience, be likely to lead to disgrace rather than honour. I think I have heard you express the opinion, that this element of self-confidence in your character is deficient, and needs cultivating; now would it not be the most effectual means of attaining this important, this truly noble quality, as well as the way most consistent with Christian obligation, to pray and labor for, true Christian humility,—such a sense of your own nothingness, and the vanity of the world, and the supreme importance of living to God as the one great object of life,—as will raise you entirely above the fear of man. Would not this living up to, the high duties and

privileges of a Christian, give you the confidence you need, the only confidence it is safe to possess,—confidence in God, and in yourself, as being in the performance of duty?

You are situated now, where you meet with many temptations, many things the tendency of which is, to lead you away from spirituality of mind, and heart-devotion to God, if these temptations are not withstood, opposed on your part, by constant secret prayer, watchfulness, and the exercise of a tender conscience in little things, you will surely be overcome by them in some way or other. ~~not being~~ "Let him that thinks he standeth take heed lest he fall." We are often nearest danger, when least sensible of it. I write this admonition to you, not because I do not need the same watchfulness and prayer,—perhaps more not that I [illegible] not equal reason to fear, lest I fall; but because we all need incitements to duty, need to be on our guard against the insidious, flattering encroachments of sin:—we need to bring and keep before our minds the object for which we have professed to live, and we need daily and hourly to ask ourselves the question, how shall I best attain this object? How shall I best glorify God?

Mr Sewall and wife started a week ago to attend the meetings at Bath and visit their friends: her sister keeps house, and with her little daughter, three years old, and myself compose the whole family, we have very quiet times.—I see Ellen Brown pretty often, but scarce any body else. My school is decidedly pleasant, much easier to manage than that at Foxcroft, have scarcely had to punish at all; I have but four weeks to keep after this week. Lucy came up for me last Sat. morn

Charles brought me back Goodman, and went up to the tannery after some hair to plaster with. The house comes on slowly, I am afraid we shall but barely get into it before cold weather, instead of moving before haying. He needs another stout man but cannot afford it.

Miss E. H. Rich
Brownville
June 22d 1844

Milo July 13

6

Mr. Isaac S. Metcalf
Foxcroft Me.

I take this opportunity to inform [illegible] that I met with no accident coming home from Dover! [illegible] S. H. Mc. We have discovered [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] but i cannot [illegible] [illegible] The next time you come [illegible] [illegible] good [illegible] I have not [illegible] is hardly [illegible]

I hope you call at Mr P's occasionally. Will you remember and give my regards to Mrs. S. next time you see her. I intend to write to [illegible] but don't know exactly where to direct a letter though I suppose it will reach him if sent to [illegible] [illegible] York.

Milo Aug. 5th 1846.

Dear brother Isaac

I suppose you are thinking and saying with sister Lucy, "Why don't they write?" — I have just completed a letter of eight pages to her, in which I have mentioned some reasons why we have not written more of late, which reasons I believe I must recapitulate for your benefit summarily, then. Mother's health is not very good this warm weather; she is so wearied with care and toil, that when time allows, she cannot always command the exertion requisite even to write to you. As for me, my time all steals away, from day to day, about one thing or another, so that, though I have been intending to write you, all the time for this month past, I have not really set about it until now.

I have a little school, you know, of three hours a day for Almeida's children, our little girl and Mary Pomroy: she attends to French, writing, drawing and needlework: she is a smart girl, happy as a kitten, and nearly as frolicsome: she can go and get Kate, bridle her, put the saddle on with some to help her lift it, and ride off down to the mills or any where else: yesterday she unharnessed her again, took her from the wagon, then ran to the barn and let Moby out, that had been shut up while the horse was gone. She is like her father, anxious to observe every thing and gain information upon every subject; ~~sh~~ she has learned some useful things this summer, and gained a stock of health and strength that I hope will be a lasting benefit to her.

Last Friday Mary and I went to [illegible], I drove Kate and the little [illegible] trotted along by our side: we had a very agreeable visit, passed the night and got home next day at noon; the more I know Mrs. Parker the better I like her, she is really warm-hearted and has qualities sufficient to overbalance many defects. You know it is said that

"the best human character has faults enough to spoil it." There have been fifty scholars in the academy this summer, — Miss Cammet is coming back this fall; Rebecca & Flora Tower are at home now, have been in Boston two years past, in a cap factory, expect to return again before winter.

Why would not some such plan do for Lucy? To take a school of small scholars in Portland for instance, enjoying the advantages that city offers. By the way why don't you write to Uncle Pet. and see if he cannot get you a chance there, to take a private or public school as soon as you finish your studies? It would do no harm to write, and might do good.

I intend to take a journey to Boston in two or three weeks, be there at the examinations and try to get a situation in the public schools there, — if I find no chance in Bangor, perhaps take a small private school in Boston if practicable, until I can by dint of perseverance and importunity obtain a chance in the public school, which most probably I could do after a time.

I shall first however see what can be done at Bangor; shall stop there two or three days on my way for that purpose.

Mary Jane expects to go to Portland, when I go to B. to meet her mother who stops at the springs longer than she intended at first; if she does, I shall start in a fortnight. Mother is writing to Mrs. Child to day, to thank her for her gift to you and tell her of my journey &c. rather late in the day but no matter in this case; her brother-in-law, Mr. Child of Bangor, called here a week or two ago, he was travelling as an agent of the Bangor Gazette, a paper published by the Fourier society, of which he seemed quite in favour, he and Charles talked some time upon it. I don't know as we have written to you that we have one chamber all finished but plastering and painting; Charles hoped to have been able to paint the front outside and portico before haying but was unable to get time, and it will not be done now probably until late in the fall. He has just begun haying, will get his portion

into the barn is any: he had bought a horse rake by which Kate can rake as much hay afternoons as two or three men; he does not expect any other help than Lemuel his hired man.

He has traded with William Hamlin in oxen, has sold him his steers for a pair that he is fatting for beef, and $6.00 to boot: by this means he hopes to get some money: they will probably be fit to sell at Bangor in a month or two. Kitty the old colt proves very stubborn—has to stand bitted up, sometimes half a day—until her mouth is very sore: Donkey is a capital good horse; but Charles thinks he [illegible] enough to sell, though Walter wants him to sell her now, the little colt 6 days old will make a prime horse if the old mare could be wintered and well fed. Charles has some grain that looks well, grass is pretty good but on account of the long spell of wet weather there will be time to get it in season: Almeida has Alvan and William Stevens doing her haying this week, she pays them money 5/ a day. Crosby has made C. pay $8,50 for his cattle lately, they strayed off into his field and he sent them to the pound in [illegible]. C. has hired Webb's field around Hodgkins house for his cows and oxen: The colts have been kept in the barn most of the time.

We had a letter from Elijah a day or two since; handsomely written and well filled, in which he says "I had a letter from Isaac the other day in which he stated that he had concluded not to write to me again till he received one from me. I suppose he thought the last letter he wrote deserved two answers." This is the fourth time I have written to you (though not a whole letter each time) since you have written directly to me and if yours to C. deserved two answers certainly my four deserve one in return; however while I am at home it makes little difference whether the letter is directed to me or not. [illegible] [illegible]
will write to E. that soon, he has been rather neglected by us all of late

Milo Me
Aug 7

5

Mr Isaac S. Metcalfe.

Bowd Coll. Brunswick.

Me.

Aug 9th 1845
Bowd Coll.

Miss C. A. Rich and
Mrs Anna M. Metcalf
Milo
Aug. 5th 1845

Joseph and I have been having a discussion by letter upon a missionary, in which I suppose he thinks I am worsted because I cannot have time to answer his last. Charlie writes that Boynton the [illegible] whose place for his hopes he has got, leaves to day and that Goff & [illegible] are afraid Joseph will not be able to keep the books after he's gone: it is unfortunate that his employers do not know any about the business [illegible] — Todd expresses the idea that a watchful conscientiousness is the foundation of a firm, decisive character.

"Conscience is a motive which can be cultivated till it calls every energy, every susceptibility, every faculty of the soul into constant, vigorous, powerful action."

If I had a little more time I dare say I should find something else to scribble about, but Mary and I are ~~[illegible]~~ just going ~~[illegible]~~ (is this grammar?) not only to the mills, but to mill — to carry a letter and bundle to go to Lucy, and some letters to put in the mail.

My Dear Son E Ann is writing a long letter to you & I have been wanting to this week or two I wanted to take back part of that letter I wrote but which you answered very satisfactorily before receiving it. I have just finish'd a letter to Mrs Child which was rather a delicate task for my poor brain I have neither time nor ability left to say the thousand and one things I want to say to you I am glad you are a good kind boy about writing & in the way of well doing I have been counting the days to the first wednesday of Sept I think it would be rather bad for you to be absent next term & I hope you wont have to be C did calculate to sell both yoke of oxen but now he is determin'd to let the farm next year if he can and if he does must furnish one yoke on the farm but thinks it would be better to hire money if we could than that you should leave next term the oxen are gaining finely now and I think if he can get them Beef it would be ~~best~~ better to sell them and buy another and cheaper on credit to put on the farm than to hire money C's health is not near as good as it used to be he has a lame shoulder most all the time so that he can only sleep on one side — he has abused himself by hard work — we have had rain rain, rain almost every day this three weeks and now the hay needs to be all cut at once I am afraid a great deal will be wasted for the want of labor to get it our Grass is after all very stout and good if it could only be got in now all in a week or two

Mother wants you should write soon and tell all your plans and especially what in clothing line either making or mending to do while you are at home, and write a letter to me too. —

Bangor Jan. 3d 1846

Dear Brother

I wish you a happy new year. I have begun a letter to you, many times and thought I would begin one a great many more times, but still your last kind letter remains unanswered. I will not take up time and space in telling the reasons of my neglect but redeem my past negligence as well as I can, by writing all I can think of that will interest you. Joseph's health is pretty good now; but it would be better if he would come down from his elevation, occasionally, and find amusement, though it were in trifles: there is too much sameness in his life he has too little variety, nothing to give versatility enough, to his subjects of thought, and pursuits, to render his mind buoyant; he very seldom hears a lecture in the evening, and has not made a social call or visit since he has been here; he went to Uncle Stanley's one evening to bargain with him about the land for my (his) schoolhouse, but that is the most like a social call that he has done: I mean to make him if possible go with me and spend an evening at Mr. Brown's soon, I have bought some battledores almost on purpose to have him exercise in playing it with me, but he seldom does: he is however liked by his roommate Mr. Veld, and by the family: they say of him, 'when he does give a joke, it is worth something" and, 'though he don't say much, when he does speak it is something worth hearing.' I take some credit to myself for his being liked, for without me to help him along, he would not be understood; I don't think he was at all at [illegible]. —

He has built me a schoolhouse since last Nov. all completed and paid for. I have been keeping in it, about a week have 35 scholars; 5 of them at $3.00 per year, the rest at $2,00: Joseph agreed with the men to wait for part of pay till next summer, but they (the joiners) were in want of money, and made a discount to have the pay now and he has been able to do it, by taking up wages in advance, and by means of a note against Brown he received in part payment from [illegible]. The schoolhouse

cost him less than $160, and he says he could sell it any day for $200; so it will be no bad speculation for him, and for me, the only way to keep my school: We should not have thought of building it now if there had been any other way, but there was absolutely no place I could hire for a schoolroom, so I should have been obliged to give up my school if ~~we~~ My first quarter closed a fortnight since, the avails will be about $45; it would have been more, but the measles went through my school, and ~~three~~ fourths of them were at home sick a fortnight or more, which I had to deduct. I have the prospect now of making pretty good wages for this term. Mary B. Pomroy goes to me & about half a dozen more of the same age: have one small class in Philosophy, one in History, and ten who are learning to draw, and a host of little roguish ones. ——

Joseph has had considerable care of my school and schoolhouse, which has been a good thing for him, the only episode in his monotonous life: have you ever thought how you would like to go ~~to the~~ store at ~~day~~ sunrise stay all day except coming to meals, till ten at night, making out bills, and casting accounts, and following it up day after day? —

Eliab I see not much oftener than if he were in another town, he is so confined to the store, but he comes over this side once in a while an evening, and I go down to the store once in a while to see him. He is attending writing school now evenings, but I doubt a little the wisdom of it. I told him I thought he had better study bookkeeping but he said he already knew it. I fear not very thoroughly. Eliab ~~needs~~ ~~lacks~~ the maturity of judgment that J. has ~~but~~ ~~and~~ perhaps he will have it when is as old.

I suppose it would be hardly worth while to write you any Milo news for probably you are informed in that respect quite as well as we: I expect ~~Lucy~~ is teaching school in Brownville at rather low wages, but I think she had better not mind much about wages till she gets a name as a teacher: Charles was down about a fortnight since purchased some new attire which he much needed, I bought a new dress for Mother which I got at a great bargain & have since

purchased one for Almena just like it (mourning de laine — Lucy is trying to persuade mother and Charles to go to Exeter, Charleston and visit, but I fear Mother will not get started.

The mother and sister of Weld, Joseph's roommate are visiting here and spent a day this week at Mr Sylvester's and the sister is coming to stay a few days next week room with me. They are from Brunswick and keep college boarders they are acquainted with most of the students said they had heard your name and would find you out when they returned which will not be till the term commences: the daughter is engaged to Mr Swazy now a student in the Seminary here. C. Weld has been accustomed to a good deal of good company is a pleasant, good fellow, about twenty, and pretty smart, dresses far better than Joseph, knows what belongs to the forms of society and I think will be a benefit to Joseph. Another boarder has lately come, Mr Goodenow from Princeton Mass. rather a stiff stately fellow, not very prepossessing. I have been to Lyceum but once this season: heard a Mr Rice upon nature and causes of sin.
have been into company but once yet, that was Christmas eve Mary Moody had a small party of little folks and a Christmas tree which which was quite a fine affair: Mrs Sylvester is going to have some company next week, and I am prodigiously afraid Joseph will absent himself. He is in a good place now to get laughed out of his oddity about society; but it is a great disadvantage not to have been early accustomed to it; those who are not much used to going into society some writer has said, almost always 'do too much or too little;' of the two errors, it is safest to do the latter. I suppose the remark refers to the whole deportment, as well as speech and action. —
I have rejoiced much at your good success and pleasant time at Turner hope you will prosper as well where you are; patience and decision, I think are the two grand requisites for success in teaching.
I am so much ashamed of this letter both in manner and matter that if I had a little more time at command I would certainly write it over and better; you must excuse it and I will try to do better next time. Shall you not come home before you commence next term?

Lucy offered to keep a school in Brownville for 1,5 per week, but was offered only 1,25. so I suppose she did not go. I have just written to her to come here, help me in my school and study some too, and I pay her board room with me for a month or two; it is exactly what she needs and would enjoy and my task is so hard and I can do so much more good in my school that I am willing to pay her board or a part of it for the sake of having her with me. I have 37 scholars of all ages from 4 to 18. with work, drawing &c,

When you write next tell me what club you board in: Miss Weld thinks it must be in Mrs. Stanwood's, her aunt's: she is at Mr Sylvester's staying a week is then going to Stillwater to stay till term begins, says she will find you out when she returns. she is not engaged to Mr Swasey but her sister is, who is staying at Rev. Mr. Adams this winter. Every thing is very dull here now; Mr. Walker has been engaged and disengaged quite a curious affair — I will tell you about it, when I have opportunity: I do not think so highly of him as I did. Charles Roberts has the name of being dissipated, —

Mr Pomroy wrote a letter to his people a short time ago, dated from Rome: he has visited Brussels, Geneva, Paris. since he left England in Nov.

Mr. Sylvester is an odd strange man in some respects. I fear Joseph will be influenced by him still more to disregard the forms of society and opinions of others: he does not have family prayers except sundays and seldom attends meeting more than half the day or ever an evening meeting. I feel troubled some about Joseph's course as a professing Christian; he has never taken upon himself the outward duties of a Christian

I am in my school room and it grows so dark that I must stop writing and fold up my letter I want J. should put it in the mail to night

We have had a great snow storm yesterday and to day.

Jan 16th 1846

I have some thing to say unto thee. Am writing up books for 1st Jany & have no time. Will do so in due season if I faint not. J.

Recd

5

Mr. Isaac S. Metcalfe.

Care of J. S. Mitchell Esq.

Gardiner. Me.

M. & L. Hill
Bangor
Jan 3rd 1846

Bangor Feb. 16th 1846.

Dear Brother

I should like to write a long and interesting epistle in answer to your last but cannot do it now, must content myself with scribbling a few words; It was in my mind to write you a long letter by [illegible] Reed who returned a week ago, but I ~~[illegible]~~ could not catch time enough [illegible] the days are long and plenty of still dull evenings, but how the time all flies away before one is aware. I have many calls to make connected with my school & must be pretty attentive in order to please, and secure patronage: my school in various ways has taken all my time except evenings, — you know I am forced to be faithful, in teaching, and the days have been short: three evenings in the week are statedly occupied in religious meetings, and Sat. eve. I have for several weeks attended a reading circle at Mrs Shepherd's where I once boarded — this circle consists of seven or eight each one to select and read on successive evenings, subject to all sorts of critical remarks. Joseph would make a good member of such a circle and it would be a means of improvement for him, and I am in hopes he will make up his mind to join it, now in his vacation. I have attended Lyceum a few times heard Prof Goodwin's which was truly a fine lecture, subject

[illegible] and description [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] sweet delight [illegible] fine lecture [illegible]

Miss E. A. Rich.
Bangor
Feb. 15th, 1846

Feb. 28th 1846
Bond Coll.

Bangor, May [illegible]

Dear Brother,

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], and I must beg [illegible] [illegible] of the apology, "I [illegible] not [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] so long, &c." but I will not attempt any excuse for I doubt whether I could have a good one.

It is a saying, that people in Bangor, never walk, but are always upon the run; whether true or not, it is certain, time steals away somehow; — yet I dare say, I spend time enough in listless inaction to write many a letter. but my school is fatiguing, and half the time out of school I feel languid and indisposed to mental exertion however slight. In higher schools, the converse with scientific studies, & the contact of minds somewhat mature, may tend to stimulate the teacher, and counteract the lassitude and weariness felt by the labour of teaching; but I have to constantly, contend with all kinds and degrees of roguery, and restlessness; with petulance and pertness, in the part of scholars themselves while I must labour to meet the expectations of their parents, often unreasonable, to have their darlings brought forward in a course of rapid improvement in spite of dull heads, and, more frequent, inveterate dislike to application. This, however, is but one side of the picture and much may be said on the other side. I have a fine school, am considered a fine teacher, and perhaps there are hardly [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] in Bangor

who would not jump to take my place, and I have great reason to be thankful for so good a situation, far exceeding my expectations or perhaps deserts. I have an average attendance of 80, of all ages between three and fifteen, and all degrees of mischievousness, yet a very pleasant school; some sweet children. I think I may depend upon having a profitable school this quarter, for I have got well started, and shall not have, I hope so many drawbacks as hitherto. both my other terms were interrupted on account of sickness & I had to deduct for absence, which lessened my profits near one third; I had to have a new stove too, the air tight which was first put in, leaked so bad at the funnel that I was obliged to change it for a common box stove, which, as the first remains on hand is an extra expense.— It has been in my heart all along to send you five dollars as soon as my last quarter's bills were paid, and I don't know, now, how to deny myself the pleasure of doing it, as I must, for the present; my necessary expenses at first, in commencing, obliged me to anticipate means which has kept my funds low: 15 dolls. that I borrowed of Lucy last fall, I have been repaying, ten dolls. of it, while she was here in March. She was here three weeks, and a nice time we had; she almost decided to remain this spring and help me, and study herself; she giving her time in part, and I paying her board; but we concluded that it would take so much for dress, in order that her stay might be any benefit and she'd have a young lady in school 18 years old who [illegible] to assist me enough to pay her tuition. it would [illegible] [illegible] the expense [illegible] some other time; I wish Lucy could be here, and attend a year or two; it is just the [illegible]

... advantages there will fall to her ... child, and ... with her taking that Hobbs school, out of the world; but don't know but it is best; one of the Hill girls wants the ... school and they managed in their own underhand way to secure it, though they knew Lucy had first applied; Charles spoke to Mrs. Frost, (he, the agent was absent) the Hills knew he had, yet they applied to *him* the moment he returned; professing all the while to Lucy, that they did not want it. It is not at all strange that [illegible] wanted the school and she is as well if not better entitled to it than Lucy, but their deceitful, tricky, way of managing puts me out of patience.

If Almeda had a different turn of character, with her abilities, she might perhaps do well to take a boarding house here, if she could turn her property there into money, — Joseph & I ... be staying here, and perhaps Eliza, and with ... other boarders, she might support and educate her children well but it is in vain to think of it, for Mrs. Chase has most kindly sent her an invitation to go to Boston with her children, and spend the most of the winter with her.

I judge from hints dropped in late letters, that there is ... serious prospect, of our homestead coming under the rule of Albinos, at some period, whether distant or near I can't pretend to determine; such an event ought not certainly to be dreaded, yet it will be a great change for Mother, and Lucy, if there, as well as to the parties immediately concerned. We have, as a family, glided on for a long time, with one exception — without material changes, ... our journey ... prepared to pass through, each for himself, his own chequered, ~~[illegible]~~ passage.

I have filled my sheet and in looking it over, it seems to me with

nothing worth mentioning; it [illegible] [illegible] said, and [illegible] [illegible] some [illegible] — [illegible] that would interest you but I hardly know what it is". The Lyceum closed some weeks since, there has been a course of lectures on Physiology, which I did not hear, and a [illegible] [illegible], what [illegible] much, I hear that a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], which [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], if [illegible] [illegible].

Business is very brisk, much has been done [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to repair the devastation of the flood. The particulars of which I presume you have heard: People was an actor and quite a [illegible] one in the drama: — his health is [illegible] and, he is always in a hurry, I see him only occasionally, when he can spare an evening to call over and see me. It is about two months since I left boarding at the same place. [illegible] goes on just as usual, he has got through his [illegible] year and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

he does not like the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I suppose they are as good as the average. [illegible] [illegible] has a pretty niece [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] think [illegible] — one [illegible] [illegible], I presume!

[illegible] [illegible] has been staying here [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] — and now she has taken the city school above the [illegible] [illegible], so she will be here all summer; I think you would do well to call and make acquaintance with this [illegible], it may be an advantage to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] one's way well through the world. The [illegible] is [illegible] and [illegible] now, and I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] with their pastoral labours in consequence of [illegible] [illegible], in addition to their usual duties. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] is going to [illegible] to deliver a course of lectures. [illegible]

(See page) 5

be a[illegible] [illegible] more [illegible] Lorraine will not [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible], [illegible] the great world's convention [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] and he will want to stop to attend that, and perhaps
express a wish, guess that he should. He had quite a serious sick-
ness at [illegible], was confined to his bed twenty days, he was in the
the family of the [illegible] Missionary there. He has visited Smyrna
and his last letter was dated Beyrout; from there, he was going in
a party of four, to visit Jerusalem and the chief places of interest
in Palestine; they were to take a tent with them with cooking uten-
sils, &c., with two Arab servants. He expects to return over the Alps,
through Germany and get back to Eng. in June or July.

I want you should write home and here too, just when
you shall be at Orange, as I suppose Charles will be down,
and I intend to dismiss my school for a week, though it will
[illegible] in the midst of a quarter;—and go out at the same
[illegible]. I suppose you will stay a fortnight but I shall [illegible]
[illegible] in a week, and when I come back one of both the
boys can go up, which arrangement would make a saving
in stage fare; they ought to have made their consent to wait till
1st June, then they would be at home all the time instead of mere-
ly coming for a few days. I hope it will be so that we can all
meet there then, for perhaps we may never be able to again, in
life. [illegible] circumstances. As to your prospects, I think you have
every reason to look on the bright side, and trust Providence
that [illegible] may [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] you do not [illegible]
the [illegible], [illegible] an importance of a [illegible].

I wish you would write [illegible] you [illegible]
ly, [illegible] we all [illegible], [illegible] you [illegible]
particularly, [illegible] you [illegible] [illegible] you [illegible]

[illegible]

Miss E. A. Rich
Bangor
May 1st 1846

May 4th 1846
Bowd. Coll.

Bangor Oct. 10th 1850

Dear brother Isaac

I received your letter [illegible] night since, and give you many thanks. I was hoping you would write, though I knew I had not [illegible], as I had not answered your last except by a few words in [illegible] I [illegible] to have written [illegible] the [illegible] not so much letting [illegible] [illegible]. I thought then that I should write you [illegible] letter in [illegible] for strange as it may [illegible] [illegible] like to write especially to own father

I am ashamed of the plea of want of time, ~~it~~ it certainly is not want of inclination; so I do not know why I haven't written oftener unless it be chargeable upon the old 'thief of time' procrastination. If I had written you as soon as I intended I should have sent it to [illegible] for I did not [illegible] you there till a short time before I received your last. I am very glad of your good prospects there, it is another proof of how much reason you have to trust Providence that your way will be made plain ~~may~~ smooth before you if the language of your heart is, 'what wilt Thou have me to do?'—

I ~~should~~ think you are favored in respect to boarding place to judge ~~from~~ the one of the [illegible] I have seen. I have a high opinion of Josephine Hall, though not much acquainted with her, have met her a few times: there is a dignity in her looks and appearance, rather uncommon: you have reason to think yourself flattered in resembling her in looks; her engagement must be recent as I heard nothing about it when she was here: she frequently [illegible] a [illegible] I believe. As to Abby Bartlett, though not an intimate friend, nor indeed a visiting acquaintance I frequently meet her and feel somewhat acquainted: she is a very well-meaning and estimable person, though not to me at all prepossessing in manners & appearance: I had a right good visit from [illegible]: she [illegible]

a little more than a fortnight. When she came, she did intend to stay a part of the time at Fox's boarding house, but we concluded she had best stay with me: Mrs. Palmer was very polite and kind, asked her to stay a week longer and her daughter might visit her at [illegible] next summer so I conclude she don't intend to take pay for board.

She went into school with me most every day; heard some, and spent her time partly in drawing for which she has really talent as well as taste. If money was more plenty it would be a fine plan for her to spend the ensuing winter here: she could benefit me essentially in school, perfect herself in drawing and French, and especially she needs the ease and polish of manner, acquired by living much in good society: we have all from oldest to youngest stood in our own light by not mingling more in society than we have done, & it has been, in a degree, our own fault, in part at least. owing to ~~by~~ the indomitable pride of our family which will not suffer us to make advances for fear we should not be met half way: I believe you are not so bad as some of the rest of us. Lucy did not visit but twice, though she made some other calls. Mrs. Walter Brown owed her some attention on account of Elial but their house is undergoing repairs so she was not in a situation to have company, therefore I excuse her. I don't feel satisfied with Sarah Harlow's treatment of Lucy: When there has been so much intimacy; she did not call on her either last winter or now though I told her she was here & how long she was to stay. I have not the least idea there was any intentional slight but only culpable carelessness, just such as our folks have been guilty of many a time. —

Lucy & I tried pretty hard to get Elial to ~~write~~ carry to Mount Hope some day while she was here but there was no time when he could go himself, ~~when~~ Mr. B's horse could be had; at least so he judged. & he was a better judge than we, though it did seem but reasonable that he should devote two or three hours to his sister when she comes so seldom. It seems to me ruinous not only to the body, but to the soul, that business is, and must be so absorbing.

Rev. Mr Bent from Townsend preached yesterday at [illegible] was

We took tea by invitation at Mr Pomroy's and had a pleasant visit. Mr. P. is just as social and jolly as ever, has I think, an additional ease and elegance of manner and is rather more robust and hardy in appearance which is all the change I can desire in him.

He described to us an Arab dinner to which he was invited with two or three other guests: he accepted the invitation on condition that the visit should be conducted strictly according to their customs. He ~~was~~ arrived before the others and was conducted into a carpetted room of moderate size but very high to secure coolness: no chairs, but a low cushioned seat running all round the room about a less than a foot from the floor with cushions at the back so that one would recline rather than sit: soon after he was seated three servants came in one with something resembling a coffee pot, full of water — another with an empty vessel or tray a third with towels: they think it an abomination to dip their hands in a dish and wash as we do but it must be running water to carry off all the filth; their habits are far removed from neatness in some other respects. — next servants brought in a censer with some aromatic gum burning, placed it before him & wrapped him in a large sheet so that he might inhale the incense; after this the mistress of the house appeared with a bottle of strong scented rose water — which she sprinkled very plentifully all over him; lastly the master of the house came seated himself near him & began a strain of compliments such as 'I take the greatest delight in your company', 'I feel greatly honored that you are my guest.' "This room & this house is lightened by your presence" &c.

The dinner itself occupied an hour three small round tables about six inches from the floor at which he sat with feet doubled under him. I have not told you much of us of the family who abide here not have I much to tell nor space to tell it in, J. & E. go on as usual I suppose you know more about them than I do for I see only once in a little age. My sister is prosperous, apparently and pleasanter than ever before but a fashion ... to be successful; must be vigilant on every side.

Rev. Mr Bent from Taunton preached yesterday at St. John's church; his wife was eldest daughter to Eliab W. Metcalf of Cambridge consequently second cousin to you, he is to be settled here over the Episcopal society & is coming with his family soon —

I hope you will not relax your "vigilance" but prove your claim to that attribute of a superior man to do whatever you do, in the best manner. — Eliab complains that you neither write so frequently nor so good letters to him as to J. and Lucy: you can act upon this hint but I would not on any account have him know I gave it. His sense of honour is very keen: Lucy says if he lived South he would have to fight some duels

Mr. [illegible] Metcalf Jr.
Bowdoin Coll.
Brunswick
Me.

Miss E. A. Reed
Bangor
Oct 16th 1846

Oct. 18th 1846
[illegible]

C. Harlow hast just gone to Roxbury to school, to a Fourierite institution or connected with it: he took a notion to go. & as it was the only thing he would do they consented. —

The new Congregationalist church is to colonize & be supported by ours and Mr. Maltby's together and is to meet at the new hall over the new market a fine room where Lyceum lectures are held this winter: Lyceum began last week: Ralph W. Emerson is here, has given three and expects to 8 or 9 more: Do you know anything about him if you do tell me what? Do write soon and often to your

affectionate sister E. A. Reed.

Bangor Dec. 30th 1846.

Dear Brother

I wish you a happy new year! — Although the old year still lingers on the footsteps of sturdy old time; yet ere this reaches you, it will have vanished, — receded from our view, but not into oblivion; — it will have taken its place in the imperishable past! Solemn thought! that all that has been, exists, and will, forever. —

All our vain thoughts, trifling imaginations, secret, perhaps, unholy purposes, are indelibly impressed on the tablets of memory and though forgotten long, will one day brighten into view as if written with a pencil of light. — — — —

Your last letter came duly to hand, it was very acceptable and though longer delayed than your answers usually are; I have no right to complain. Mother received a good letter from you while I was at home at Thanksgiving & in her letter to us a few days since she mentioned having heard from you and of your journey of which I should like to have an account soon from you. —

You know how glad I should be to have this continued 100 times as much;

Lucy has I believe, written you since she came here; informing you probably of her "state and condition." I think it is rather a favorable opportunity for her: Joseph is on the same street, and can accompany her to meetings, Lyceum, and, however deficient he may always have been in his attentions to the 'ladies' in general, to his sisters, he has always been attentive and kind. He presented Lucy with a pretty muff as a Christmas present.—

She attends singing school two evenings in a week: her help in school is just what I need for with so great variety in age and attainments, I find my task very laborious, even with no larger number of scholars than sufficient to furnish a comfortable living. My school has been as full, as I wished, almost ever since I commenced.

Mrs. P. engaged to send Anna some weeks since, as soon as her present term is out, and when I called there lately, another lady was in, who has three sweet children, and told me she would send them to me soon: After she had gone, Mrs. Pomroy said to me 'you must remember that I engaged Anna first".— this was gratifying to me

Almost the whole of Christmas week I was confined to the house in consequence of a violent cold: Lucy kept school one day and a half alone had vacation the remainder of the week.—

The evening of Christmas I was invited to a party, could not go of course, — Mr. Shepherd's family (where I board,) all went; Lucy had been spending the day with me, so Joseph and Eliab came up in evening and don't you think we had a cozy time?

I like my present boarding place very much, I have reason to believe that I am among real friends; I have a large pleasant chamber: in it is an air-tight, and in that generally a fire. A beautiful, witty, intelligent and noble hearted "Lizzie", rooms with me; if I had more time, I would tell you more about her.

Eliab is really a smart and promising young man, and pleases every one, he is called pretty handsome, but his time is so engrossed with his business and with his "Sons of Temperance" affairs that I scarcely see him once a month.

There is an Antiquarian singing society just formed here for reviving old music that was sung (when Mother was a young): they give a Concert New Year's eve, the avails to go to the "Wood Society."

Mr. Pomroy lectured before the Pilgrim Society to commemorate the landing: had a very full house & was much admired. Our Lyceum has not amounted to much this winter.

A new Orthodox Church is just forming meetings to be held at the new Market hall: Prof. Shepherd has offered to give six months preaching. I have heard Mr. Walker is one that is going from Mr. P.'s & 25 others.

I am at the end of my sheet so must be at the end of my letter. Your Sister Anna — — —

I suppose you must have seen Almeda on your way; if so write about her.

Miss E. A. Rich
Bangor
Dec. 30th 1846

Mr. Isaac S. Metcalf
Bowd. Coll.
Brunswick Me.

Jan 1st 1847
Topsham via Bruns.

Miss E. A. Rich
Bangor
June 24th [illegible]

June 26th 1845
Bowd. Coll.

[illegible]

Lucy wrote her letter [illegible] some [illegible] and we [illegible] to [illegible] you [illegible] week but it has been delayed, [illegible] parti[illegible], the [illegible] been [illegible] the past [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] her [illegible] and nature is [illegible] at [illegible] have [illegible] walks since [illegible] and [illegible] down the banks of the Androscoggin: except that I took a walk to the [illegible] a day or two since with Lizzie [illegible] a young [illegible] from Frankfort. Have you ever visited the "[illegible]" and explored its wonders? We went into the [illegible] which is [illegible] quite a room, at least to my eyes, with quite a [illegible] of curiosities [illegible] of beautiful [illegible], idols, &c enough to fill one small room. Lucy was not smart enough to go that day, which was a pity, for we could not put it off. Her health is certainly improving. She [illegible] "[illegible]" in spite of Dr. [illegible] medicine which she ought to have taken long ago. I have just seen Lucy's epistle and she seems to have said all there is to tell you; — her "Sam's book" that he brought for her to read the very day it got to town is very engaging.

Really I never before so forcibly felt the superiority of those noble souls and lofty intellects, lodged in iron frames, who accomplished so much in the revolutionary struggle, & against such odds; it seems to me the proportion of such men is small now. Probably the circumstances of the times in which they lived helped to make them what they were. Another thought struck me, — the resolution shown by the soldiers in enduring such privations, and extraordinary sufferings — for months without any covering but tufts of moss, and repeatedly fighting in this condition. —

Your shirts are at last accomplished though it has been rather a lingering job, I hope they will fit well, we ought to have taken your measure especially for the collar and bosoms. We shall send them by Mrs. S. next week: she will visit her daughter Mrs. Dr Ellis, and says she shall send for you to call as soon as she gets there so you must hold yourself in readiness as soon as she arrives, for having enjoyed her hospitality in some little degree, she has claims on your politeness.

I am sorry you did not again call on Mrs. Veazie:— one must take a little trouble and pains to secure a footing on this earth, especially if one is not already encircled with influential friends: If I were ever to undertake to give you some sisterly advice and counsel, I should say much on this point for I fear you are deficient in improving your advantages in this respect, as I have been in many instances. there are things in the constitution of society and the ways of the world to make us feel indignant, but I suppose true wisdom requires us to smother such feelings and thread our way along its tortuous course in that manner which will best secure our interest consistently with strict integrity of thought and feeling.— — — —

I perfectly long for a ride into the country this beautiful season— am looking forward with fond anticipations to our projected excursion for the 4th. but have some fears that I shall have to take it all in anticipation which some say is better than reality, so I shall have the best part of the pleasure at that rate. I believe I have written a long letter enough to be all about nothing, so good bye

Affy Sister Anne —

Dear Brother Bangor July 17th '47.

After this long delay, your shirts I hope will reach you. Mr. Shepherd has been detained week after week by the work on his house, saying all the time he should start next week; if I had known it would be long, I would have tried to find another chance to send them. Mother said you were rather destitute and I am afraid you have suffered inconvenience for the want of them.

These shirts are made beautifully, the linen is very fine; most too nice for constant wear, even by a student, you can be a little careful of them and by the time the weather becomes somewhat cooler, we will some of us make you a pair a little thicker; if there is any thing about them that you would like made differently, write just what. There [illegible] since our ride home from Milo, I suppose Lucy has told you before now of the good time we had, how we serenaded them — even Jo has got to be a singer it was really quite an event to me to have such a good ride, and spend three days at home too, without having any vacation; strawberries and cream were plenty; Mond. the 5th, immediately after breakfast I went up the new road and in spite of the dew and wet ground, picked about two quarts of strawberries, then Charles, Mother, Lucy and I had a delightful ride up the new road; C. put Nelly into the carryall, and at first, her head was turned by the unwonted honour, so that she whirled round three times before C. could stop her: but after the first shock was over, went perfectly well. After the ride, Eliab & I determined upon a sail up the river, and not being able to get any one to join us, we went alone in Uncle Henry's boat; we had deep enjoyment in paddling along under the overhanging bushes, hearing the birds sing amidst the solitude and silence: we went up Boober brook half way to the new road Eliab said, we returned in time for dinner which we ate with fine relish, our desert was each a saucer full of strawberries & cream. We started for Bangor about three, got in at nine, just as a few attempts were made at fire-works, — they never make out any thing here at that; too expensive perhaps. Since then I have been to Glenburn with 6 or 8 others to sail on Pushaw, went to Lizzie Lee's father's to tea and had a delightful time.

Last week the weather was extremely hot; very pleasant this week since Tues, when we had a more severe thunder storm than is usual here, but no injury done that I know of. Yesterday S. W. Furber carried Mehitable up to Milo; she came in the boat, the day before. I suppos

there is a compact made now, and I feel rather sad about it, fear her happiness will not be increased by it, indeed I don't think she herself expects it: yet I suppose it is, all things considered, best. — — — — —

Joseph has probably written you about the settlement; I hope that is for the best, but don't know. You say you shall be through before "commencement", how is it? It seems to me I should rather stay, if it is going to make any difference either in name or reality: better consider and not take any step that you will be in any danger of regretting in future; Can you have a diploma and be a complete and regular graduate if you leave sooner? As to your plans for the future, I don't altogether like Engineering: if you had taken that course four years ago, it might do better, but now, it is in the first place too difficult to obtain a good situation; — 2, too arduous for you, for though you have a perfectly sound constitution it is not an iron one. 3, it seems to me it would furnish comparatively little opportunity to be useful, and would lead to an unsettled, wandering mode of life very unpleasant and prejudicial to you: Had you not best make up your mind to press straight forward, into the ministry, come right here where you already have some friends, would soon have more; where if Lucy settles, she would probably live, and could board you; where you have already two brothers and a sister stationed.

You might be considerably above the medium, in natural abilities, and especially in respect to early advantages, which makes a vast difference in people; you could support yourself without being absent more than many are, and when you get through, would undoubtedly find an open door to usefulness, respectability and a comfortable support: this is universally the case even with those least endowed, and least favored either by nature or education. I would much rather you would go the West, and spend your days in endeavouring to stem the encroachments of popery than to be an engineer. I think you ought at once to decide upon your course, else you will be in danger of spending some of the most precious of your time in useless efforts, because without certain aim.

Have you ever read Longfellow's "Hyperion", what is the meaning of the title? I do not greatly admire the book, — the style is pretty. — I want very much to get those works of Prescott's, mean to get Joseph to take them out of the library for me if they are there which I doubt however. I heard the Bell Ringers last Mond. eve, was very much delighted, their dexterity and quickness in handling the bells is surprising. —

Mother said we must all charge you to take care of your health, and stand straighter — you have grown roundshouldered, within two years and you must make an effort now to exert yourself. Charles has done much for himself in this respect.

Miss E. A. Rich
Bangor,
July 14th / 22d 1847

Mr. Isaac S. Metcalf
Bowd. Coll.
Brunswick
Me.

July 23d '47
Bowd.

Bangor Sept. 2?

Dear Cordie

I [illegible] last Sat. [illegible] I had the pleasure of reading your letter, and glad was I to hear from you — had begun to wonder why you did not let us know where you were wandering, and what was your success. I ~~am~~ delighted to hear about all the friends there, that I remember with so much interest if only to hear their names mentioned: but one of the dearest of all, you said not a word of; my dear and long-loved cousin Ardelia — Mrs. Dickinson: it seems as if you could not have passed her over, and as you speak of the 'meadows;' I conclude you must have visited her.

She is a noble woman — a large soul and a large heart. but 'yoked unequally' in every respect. If you have not yet got acquainted with her do not fail to do so, and from me, give her a great deal of love, tell her I often think of her, that I always shall remember her, with much affection the playmate of my childhood, and friend of my youth.

To Mrs. Parsons too, ~~give~~ and to cousin Joseph H. give my most affectionate remembrance I often think with pleasure of my pleasant visit [illegible] and [illegible] envy you the happiness of seeing all our dear friends there. though very glad that you have the opportunity to do it.

When you go to Winchester, I want you to do me the favour to go to my Uncle Elisha Rich, make yourself known to him, and tell him all about Charles, A. and I, and give my best regards & respects to him & his wife: I have been an inmate of his family for months and have received much kindness from him & his wife: he I am sure would feel hurt, if you do not call; they would make you welcome to their house

I suppose you don't wish any thing sent to you, till you are certain of your destination: you have

not written whether you have received your shirts at last or not. Have you bought a new coat? If not I think you need one by this time.

I have had some accessions to my school, it is quite flourishing now.

I must break off in order to have this go with J's letter so good bye write soon and particularly, every thing about the friends there is exceedingly interesting to me. Give much love from me to all.

Aff'ly Ann.

Miss E. A. Rich
Bangor
Oct 28/1847

Mr Isaac A. Metcalf

Oct 11th 1847
Pd Metcalf

Miss E. A. Rich
Bangor
Nov 13th
Apr 28th 1847

Dec. 6th 1847
Northfield

Nov. 1st. 847.

Dear brother

I had much pleasure in reading your good long letter yesterday and also one before, I believe since I have written. I hope you will continue to write fully and frequently whether your letters get answered or not, if you have not really more leisure than most of us you have at least less of carping care; for your employment must tend to unburden, and give buoyancy to the mind, rather than the contrary. I wish Joseph was as favourably situated for the health of his mind. Elial seems to have a natural ~~rebo~~ rebound of the spirit which counteracts care, or perhaps he is rather too young to be influenced much by it but Joseph needs such a life as you are leading, or a voyage to S. A. or W. I. to give freedom of mind and healthful action.

I should not look upon it at all as a misfortune, in the end — if he should fail in his present effort in business, for it might be the means ~~of a~~ used by a kind Providence to lead him into circumstances to promote a more free, happy ~~and~~ harmonious action of the powers God has given him, — at present cramped, and in a measure turned from their native bias: I know him to ~~have~~ possess a keen susceptibility to enjoyment, but he seems ~~now~~ to allow himself none. Elial returned yesterday from a week's sojourn at Milo, the particulars of which you will hear I suppose from them. Lucy as I judge, is in good health and spirits.

I am going to have a week's vacation at Thanksgiving and if I could jump into a railroad car and reach home in an hour, I should be glad; as it is do not think best to be at the trouble and expense to go, for so short stay. My school is flourishing an average of about 35 scholars. I board at Mr Shepherd's yet & probably shall, the winter; Lizzie Doe and I do, as usual; she sends her regards. Lizzy Quimby has gone to N. H. and is to be married to her cousin, Fellows, tomorrow morning.

You speak of making more rapid progress in your "profession" than usual with beginners, & I think it ought to be so, few,

I suppose enter upon it with a liberal education; if a young man has spent four years the very best of his life in cultivating, improving, and furnishing his mental powers, he ought to set for himself a high standard, and ~~reach~~ take a higher stand than than others, he ought to be looked up to, and bear sway over other minds: you say you have been ahead in every laborious employment: perhaps that is well, but it is not well to do what will let down your own dignity and importance in the view of others; ~~not it~~ may be real dignity; but so called: I believe in general, what you claim for yourself, others will accord you, I mean in regard to the estimation in which you are held.

It seems to me too that a habit of deciding and expressing one's self, promptly, especially in that business, would do much to help one forward. I know you need to cultivate that habit, and manner of speaking — leaving out the ifs and perhaps's and "I don't know," from your vocabulary: Perhaps this from me is quite unnecessary, — Joseph has not — I believe a very good opinion of giving advice, but I speak as you know from a deep interest in your well doing and wellbeing, and I know that suggestions have sometimes been of much use to me. —

In your latest letters you have not mentioned the friends there — do you see them often, and have you yet seen cousin Ardelia? She is a decided Christian and an interesting one, she was convinced of the truth when quite young, living in Warwick; she was much caressed in the Unitarian society, was the principal singer and a fine one, the idol of her father: she took a decided stand in favor of the new and there much despised Orthodox church, long before she experienced religion: her father was a bitter opposer, all her connections there were Unitarians the minister's wife her own cousin: when she became convinced of her duty she talked with her father about it, told him that nothing but her conscientious convictions of duty could induce her to ~~take~~ take a course so contrary to tis wishes asking his consent ~~to~~ follow her sense of duty, which he gave readily & never afterwards opposed her though it was a great trial to him. The course she took and her manner of doing it too, does great

honour to her: she was then not 18, - the time when the world and its vanities have most power over the mind, she does not regard herself as having been pious then yet her noble regard to principle, led her to give up the good opinions of her friends, expose herself to obloquy and ~~contempt~~ neglect. I will relate something of her at a still earlier period of life: After the death of her mother, (who you know was mother's oldest sister, whom I remember perfectly & with much affection) I visited at her father's, & spent several days: she was then 15 or 16, the oldest of seven children, I spent the sabbath there and after tea, she gathered all the children together into a retired chamber, had us all kneel round the bed, while she led in prayer: this as I knew, had been Aunt's practice, and this good girl, putting away all false shame, simply to do her duty, had kept up the practice ever since her mothers death. Is there not something uncommon in such a character?

As I have gone so far, I will tell a little more of her history: A little previous to her mother's death, while on a visit to her relations in Barre, she became acquainted with a young man of that place by the name of Lee, he belonged to one of the very first families, was wealthy & moved in a high circle, he was much pleased with her, for she was interesting in her appearance; he visited her after her return home, and it resulted in an engagement; after awhile some of the relations from Athol who knew all about him, sent word that he was dissipated somewhat, in his habits: she dismissed him at once, though I have no doubt at a great sacrifice to her own feelings: I can not help thinking that if it had not been for this early blighting of her affections and hopes, she would not have united her destiny with that old hunks of a Dickinson twice her age: I believe that she set her own feelings aside, and married because of her fathers narrow circumstances then, the necessities of her younger sisters, and her need of a home. When I was there three years ago, she said to me, with much emphasis, 'don't you marry for a home'. —

I am sorry to hear that Joseph A. is a follower of Parker, but Unitarianism tends to infidelity, and it is not strange: I cannot but hope that Uncle Joseph & aunt are real christians; they have been grounded in the truth in infancy though their children have only been under Unitarian influence.

You have never mentioned Maria Stevens in any of your letters, whether she is at home or not, and how you like her. — cousin Lucy Williams looks very much indeed, as Adelia did at her age, though hardly so handsome — —

The chief subject of interest at present in Bangor is the Lyceum, which just now occasions much talk. We have had 4 lectures from Mr Giles of Boston, two from Rev. Starr King Universalist of Cambridge Port, — two from Rev. Theodore Parker, & two from Mr O. A. Bronson — the unitarian, comeouter, and ~~last~~ at present Roman catholic: Many of these lecturers have chosen such subjects as called out their peculiar views, and Mr Parker in a covert manner plainly ridiculed all religion or at least all faith that any thing in particular is necessary to salvation. Mr Brownson came out openly in favor of "the church", declared himself a Romanist,

Mr Pomroy last sabbath spoke of the Lyceum in his sermon said he believed it to be as at present conducted, a school of immorality and infidelity and that he was bound to bear testimony against it. warn parents against exposing their children to its influence. ~~&~~. Other ministers have borne similar public testimony, and most of the evangelical part of the community think they have done just right but opposers of religion are quite stirred up about it. Dr Jordan, dentist, who married Mrs. Cargill — I don't know whether you know him — has addressed a letter to Mr Pomroy through the Mercury; Dr. Pond answered it, and he has addressed another to Dr Pond.

all this is the general topic of conversation. — Mr Walker in his paper, puffed Mr Parker, and disapproves Mr Pomroy's course but he is a decided Arminian and for aught I know will yet be an infidel: I do not have the greatest respect either for his opinions or practice. He has a little son, named Clarkson Wilberforce!

I hope my dear brother that you will be the firm consistent Christian — stem the torrent of irreligion and in all circumstance, through Divine grace do your duty — —

With much affection

Sister Ann —

Christmas eve. 1847.

Dear brother

Joseph brought me your letter yesterday; — which I was very glad to receive, I had begun to wonder much at your long silence and to feel somewhat troubled lest you were sick, or some accident had happened. I suppose your time is much taken up, but I should think your evenings would be your own if not once in a while a day: I fear you take too much upon yourself, more than you need to, which would be poor policy either physically or mentally:

As to want of society I have thought of that, in the business you have chosen and it seems to me a disadvantage; one that must be counteracted or it will lead to serious injury: not a necessary result, though perhaps a more common one of the mode of life of the engineer. Mr. Williams who surveyed the route through Warwick &c. three years ago this winter, and whom I met at Mr. Joseph's, was a finished gentleman, conversing with ease and in a most agreeable manner upon every variety of topic, and variety of persons too, easily adapting himself to all, and showing a large acquaintance with men & things as well as a liberally cultivated and refined mind; unlike most persons, seen only for an evening, he left a vivid impression on my mind of his agreeableness and varied information, — he had travelled extensively over the Union, in the way of his business & was a man of piety. I think you are formed to enjoy social intercourse and to be made better, as well as more useful to others by it, and who is not? If our brother Joseph would commune with his fellow beings, open the stores of his accurately well-filled mind, impart and diffuse the just sentiments and kind feelings of his heart, if he could easily and gracefully act upon other minds with his strong common sense and moral worth how much good might be accomplish, and how much enjoyment he would receive ~~himself~~ in return! Constituted as he is, there must be a void felt by him a lack of communion with other minds for I know he is formed to enjoy it with kindred spirits

Do you board [illegible] now a days? As long as [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

How are your sabbaths spent? You have not spoken of that:
I conclude you usually spend them either in Brattleborough
or [?]tfield if at the latter, I suppose you go with the small and
rather despised flock, of what we consider real Christians, — great
watchfulness is necessary for you as well as all others to keep in
the way and not turn aside in any way yielding to temptation.*

It seems to me it would not be wrong for you to spend part
of a sabbath (or the whole) with our cousin Mrs. Dickinson — she is as nearly
related to you as any one there, — you would enjoy her conversation
she would take much interest in you, and she has been so intimate
with our family — spending months with mother when quite young
that I think you owe it to her as well as yourself to become ac-
quainted with her. — I wish you to remember me with much
affection to cousins Joseph & Hannah and Maria when you
see her, and all other friends — Mrs. Dickinson in particular. —

I have forgotten whether in my last, I mentioned that
Mr. Pomroy had commenced a course of lectures to young men on modern
infidelity: he has given four, the closing one last sabbath eve;
they drew very crowded congregations and have caused much ex-
citement, because connected with the Lyceum here. In his first,
he said that there is here a 'clique' of men who are trying to bring
in, pour in, sift in, thrust in, as much infidelity upon this com-
munity as they cleverly can': he charged it upon the man-
agers of the Lyceum, from information from one not connected
with any Orthodox society who had sagacity enough to see
what was in the wind', — he was understood to implicate
the meeting for choice of managers, consisting of Gov. Kent,
and nine others: this raised a great breeze, the dailys came
out, — the opposers were chuckling at the thought that Mr Pomroy
had got himself into difficulty by assailing private character &
motives, Mr Walker came out strong against him and in defence of
the Lyceum, but Mr. Pomroy in his second lecture, explained
wherein he was misunderstood, & wherein he had been misin-
formed, reiterated his charge of infidelity upon the 'clique';
in fact conceded nothing but came off quite triumphant; —
the knots of men who after the first lecture had gathered, in Smith's
Bugbee's store, &c. &c. and talked so loud, were quite whist after the second

Joseph was in the schoolroom to day and read me some valuable thoughts on letter writing, which if I had time and space and could do them justice I would write; One idea was that the tendency of correspondence is to deteriorate, unless special efforts are made on both sides to originate new thoughts and stimulating ideas

* The managers of the Lyceum are Abraham Sanborn, Dr Jordan & another irreligious [?] excellent [?] that I don't

Mother's children have been, and I trust will prove to be blessings to her, yet we come far short of what we ought to be in the sight of God, and as Christians we are I fear wofully deficient in self-denying active efforts for the spiritual benefit of others. — — — — —

Mrs. Nat. Harlow has been quite sick this some time, nervous debility and as many think consumption. Charles is at work in Mr. Walker's office, setting types, and boards with him, I know nothing further of him; as to your question respecting Eliz Quincy, my thoughts were founded upon observations made during her visit at our house, and I still think that if E.'s course had been different, the result would have been different; it is far better as it is. — You say you have made no acquaintances in Northfield, the people of those old towns are generally I should judge far more tardy in tendering courtesies and even common civilities to strangers, than in this part of the country where perhaps such attentions are more needed, and where strangers are welcomed. Hortense Hall is here, spending the winter, I have called on her, she has not yet returned my call, will soon I presume. She has altered much in looks is not so handsome as three or four years ago, she spoke of you with much interest.

Friend Lizzie has had a week's vacation is gone to Glenburn, she is a noble girl, has not had the best of advantages but has by nature a lofty soul, and fine features of mind: she wished me to give her regards when I wrote. Mrs. Shepherd says the last time she saw you was in the stage from Brunswick to Bath.

When I rose this morn I found in my room a beautiful octavo volume of 'Proverbial Philosophy' a new year's gift from Mrs. Shepherd. Charles was down, went home yesterday, brought me a short letter from Mother; she begins to think of a separation, when Lucy hitherto exclusively ours, must be another's, — rather a painful thought to me and no wonder it is to her, — families ~~[illegible]~~ separate, and they still remain unbroken in feeling, but when they are divided off into families of their own, it will be, it cannot but be somewhat different, whether living near or far apart. The sweet unbroken ties of relationship have been enjoy by us, as a family long, and in a greater degree perhaps than most others, & may still be. I hope

Have not I written you a long letter this time? Will you not send me as long an one

affectly Sister Anne

Jan 1st 1848. I wish you a happy new year! According to Johnson, "happiness consists in a constant employment, for a desired end, with the consciousness of continued progress." I wish you a year of improvement to yourself and usefulness to others. It seems to me it would be unwise to give up if you can avoid doing so, mental cultivation and refinement by means of books or society, while no doubt you will be gaining the strength and improvement of mind derived from an increase of practical knowledge from the various sources within the range of your experience. A week ago this eve (Sat.) Joseph and Elial spent the evening with me, in my chamber; we had a fine time, — a bright fire on the hearth, some nuts and raisins to regale ourselves, and sweet converse for the feast of reason &c. J. brought some poetry for me to see, cut out of the "Whig" which I am convinced he wrote, though he would not say so, it was upon the Mexican war and was fine, but don't you allude to it to him, for he will think I had no right to mention it as his. It appears to me sometimes, that he is not in his right vocation, the one best fitted to employ & develop the powers with which he is endowed, perhaps by his failure in his present pursuits, Providence will prepare the way for some other place: he would do well as a lawyer and possibly may be one yet; — I don't know that there is danger of his failing, but it is a very dull time in business, some heavy firms here have lately failed.

So you write some good long letters to Elial, he feels backward about writing, probably because of early deficiency in spelling, writing &c. and especially because generally you have written your letters chiefly to J. and only a few words to him, sometimes you ought to direct chiefly to him with perhaps only a message to J. E. is a noble-hearted fellow is going to make a first man: in his manners and deportment universally pleasing, and when as old as his elder brothers, bids fair to make a man as truly valuable as they, though unlike it may be. I take much satisfaction in all my brothers, as well as sisters,

In his first lecture he told what Christianity is, in the second, he went over the whole ground of Transcendentalism quoted German writers, and its great champions in this country R. W. Emerson & Theo. Parker, showed them by their own writings to be infidels: he quoted this from Parker's book, "The Bible contains numerous contradictions, poems pretending to be histories, prophecies that never have nor can be fulfilled, stories of miracles that could not have been true, amatory songs, and finally that the God of the Bible is a cruel implacable being not to be trusted"! I wish cousin Joseph could see just what he is admiring in Mr Parker. Mr Pomroy reviewed Mr Parker's lecture before the Lyceum, in which he manifestly cast contempt upon all religion or rather upon all faith in any thing in particular as necessary to salvation, said the press had been recreant to duty in not condemning such sentiments; said he "if I should go before the Lyceum and speak against Universalism as I ~~solemnly~~ believe, would nothing be said? From which of the four mountains of Moab should I not be cursed" – this last expression four mountains of Moab, called forth 'Asa's' ire, as it classed him with the rest, Bill Bartlett, Haines &c. where in fact he has placed himself by nott upholding the truth. The third lecture was upon the infidelity of Fourierism, Mesmerism, and a licentious press, in which the editors here got some rubs: the last was a comparison of infidelity with Christianity and a sort of application of the whole. I think they will do much good, though perhaps the present effects may not be visible; Mr Pomroy has shown himself nobly independent and self-sacrificing in doing it, though doubtless it will raise him bitter enemies it has been said that he never has stood higher than now in the estimation of this community. Bishop Burgess is to deliver the next lecture next tuesday evening.

We have as yet had no sleighing – very mild weather mud plenty: – lumbering operations all waiting; the river has closed within a week but will not remain so long unless the weather changes. – The small pox is prevailing to some extent here: it is said there are 30

cases now, several public schools have stopped, some of my scholars left on that account. the city authorities are blamed:

There have been several cases in Brownville & Milo and the select men have stopped the schools.

Miss C. Anne Rich
Dec. 25th 1847
Bangor
Jan 4th 1848

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Mr. J. S. Metcalf
Vt. & Mass. R.R. Office
Northfield
Mass.

Jan 7th 1848
Northfield

Miss E. A. Rich
Bangor
Feb. 27th
March
1848

March 1848
Northfield

Bangor Feb 27th 1848

My Dear Brother

I wish I could step in upon you this eve and see where you are, what you are doing, and especially, what you are thinking of. I do not know whether to imagine you at some public house in Brattleborough or Northfield, or among the cousins at the latter place; you say so little about our friends there, that I hardly know whether to conclude they receive you into their hearts and houses, and take a cordial interest in you and your concerns, or not — perhaps you do not enough claim and respond to, that interest, ~~in which case~~ it would naturally be withheld: I believe I do but half like your situation, according to my impressions of it — wish you would write me a particular diary of a few days, in especial reference to your social position, enjoyments and experiences. Have you a definite prospect before you for the ensuing year or season and when can you, and shall you obtain leave of absence to visit this region?

It seems a great while since I have heard from you, — it is longer than I meant it should be since I have written; it has been near the close of the term and that brought increased of labours and cares, — I said to myself — in my week's vacation, I will appropriate a day, and have a real good time in writing letters: but behold, my precious vacation is all expended to its last evening — the days have slipped away, I hardly know how — the plying of the needle — woman's allotted task — engaged a considerable portion of the time together with calls connected with school — one half day & very much more I spent in reading one of Scott's novels — for me a strange & hardly justifiable employment: I have enjoyed my week much in my pleasant room, with a nice bright fire in an open fire place, instead of a tight air-tight stove. I shall begin my task again with good courage, — my school is pleasant and flourishing; I have great reason to be thankful for my good success hitherto.

A week ago last Tuesday eve, when I came up into my chamber after tea, I saw a lady all cloaked and bonnetted, sitting before the fire in the rocking chair, I advanced toward her wondering, and beheld — sister Lucy, — her friend "Sam" had dropped her at our door and she stole in without regard to knocker or bell and — quite unawares, slipped up stairs: it was a joyful surprise as you may think: — the next afternoon (Wednes I was at liberty, and we shopped — spent 15 or 16 dolls. bought her a pretty wedding dress (silk) for which Eliab furnished means. the day after she had a dressmaker and nearly completed making her dress: the next day she spent at Mr. Thacher's (where she staid last winter) and the next day went home, a much shorter visit than I expected or she intended, but Mother was not willing she should stay longer because Charles was away from home, and the state of things lonely at home. I presume I could not write you any news from Milo for I suppose you hear pretty often and as particularly as I do, Lucy found a new comer to welcome, when she returned, which in a bit of letter I had from her to day, — she describes as a 'homely little imp' crying all the time', a truly favorable account since homely babies make handsome men, and the exercise of its vocal organs only proves its strength of lungs. Joseph says the name will be Charles H.

Probably the great event in regard to Lucy, will take place about or before the middle of May - she will inform you I hope it will be consistent for show yourself here then. —

March 1st. Eliab, like a good brother, as he is, came up to see me last Sabbath; gave me some account of Prof. Shepherd's sermon that day upon the text, 'evil communications corrupt good manners;' - it was addressed to young men — of which class he has many hearers — he made use of the following expressions as applicable to some; 'silly, grinning, chattering monkeys'. E. frequently comes to see me between meetings; & has passed two evenings here lately by invitation, to meet little social companies. Joseph seldom calls, indeed never, unless by special request, and with assurance that he will meet none of the family. They were both here

one eve during Lucy's stay and we had another pleasant home meeting to which we would gladly have admitted you. Joseph accepts no invitations, and makes no calls, has not been here except to go up into my chamber for a year, spends as usual all his spare time in reading.

Where he boards there is a young lady — a niece of the family — who is quite intellectual, quite a poetess, & as I hear, quite interesting. I called to make her acquaintance last week and was pleased with her, she has a fine pleasant black eye, a beautiful forehead, a very sweet expression, and a ~~clear~~ delicate complexion deeply scarred with the small-pox the only thing that saves her from being handsome: I am earnestly hoping that Joseph will feel a desire to render himself agreeable to her, if he should be downright and deeply in love, I should have hopes of his recovery from his present unsocial, recluse, nobody-caring-for habits. No matter I was going to say, whether fortunate or unfortunate in an attachment, the calling out of his soul, would do him good, would rouse the morbid sluggishness of his affections and sympathies, and make him a fellow-being.

Sometimes I am quite out of patience with him for his oddity, and sometimes I make allowance for him: he has a deal of pride and will take no part in any thing unless it be the first and foremost one, and he has not confidence enough in his own powers of pleasing, and of his own faculties of easy conversation, in which it seems to me he might excel from his quick sense of the ridiculous, and ready discrimination, or in other words strong common sense, united with nice and delicate perceptions, though this last in him he makes an effort to blunt at least so far as it has any connection with manifesting feelings.

There was quite a snow storm yesterday, cold windy March weather — the drifts are plenty at Milo, without doubt. We have had no sleighing here till within two or three weeks and very little cold weather: great injury to lumbering operations

There has been a fair got up this winter by the managers of the Orphan Asylum — (an Institution by the way that makes much ado about the maintenance of eight little girls the average number who would be probably better off if put out in good families) — they have raised about 700 — one way is by means of a book entitled "Voices of the Kenduskeag" written entirely by the "natives" — one piece "Vision of Bangor in the 20th century", has considerable wit, written by Gov. Kent.

Every thing about the Lyceum has been very still the last few weeks: the Professors and one or two ministers who were expected to lecture, have declined; as near as I can learn, the religious part of the community do not go much. Mr Hedge you know is absent on "a foreign tour" and Mr. Giles is expected to supply his pulpit awhile. Cotillion parties at Vinton Arcadian hall and the Bangor house have been frequent & well patronised.

There is quite an attention to religion at Orono, at Hampden at Monson and some other places. Mr Pomroy has lately began a series of sermons, afternoons which he designates, "Christ at the Sea of Galilee." Prof. Shepherd has lately given some powerful sermons on the inspiration of the Bible: I went to the hall to hear two of them: that society seems to be building up prosperously, they are about getting a pastor I believe — — Mr Springer from the region of the Kennebeck, somewhere, is here lecturing on Astronomy I attend — not very profound but interesting from his good apparatus. — Lizzie Doe sends her regards — we jog on together as well satisfied with each other as ~~usual~~ ever. — I believe my last letter to you was written sometime in Jan. but I am not sure but you will be quite willing to have a longer time elapse before receiving another for I write so fine that my letters are unmercifully long considering how little I can tell ~~of~~ interest to you.

I shall wait with some impatience to get an answer to this, it is long since we have heard from you; I want to hear all you can tell about our relations there, and especially all you can tell about yourself: I make no doubt of seeing you next May, for you are ~~so~~ something of a home boy and I think will not want to be absent on an occasion like that, to which however I do not look forward with great joy: Remember me particularly to all the friends, Have you delivered my message to cousin [illegible] yet?

I conjure you to make constant efforts to [illegible]: it will do much for you, & it can be done; walking must be favourable to it. I hope you will remember that we as a whole family are altogether too apt to slight opportunities to form acquaintances, where it will promote our interest. The more communion you have with Uncle Joseph the better; how [illegible] do you see him? [illegible] & him [illegible] ask him [illegible] he [illegible] Maria will not come & visit us next May or June. Tell him I think he promised to come when we were there.

Miss C. Anne Rich
Bangor, Me
April 16th 1848

April 19th 48
N. Mifield

Apr. 1st 1848

Dear Brother

A fortnight ago I [illegible] brought me your interesting and most welcome letter. it contains much that I should like to talk over with you [illegible] how much [illegible] more easy to convey the thoughts in writing just as they exist in the mind. The glance of the eye — the kindling of the countenance gives the soul to words — gives almost intuitively the precise shade of thought intended, while in writing, some very trivial misapprehension may give a little tone or colouring to the sentence so as to make a slight difference in the expression conveyed.

This train of thought I have been led into by your answer to my remarks about [illegible], which I wrote down as they came into my head just as I should have talked [illegible] if I had been conversing with you upon the same subject, in which case we should [illegible] in [illegible] about alike.

I lay my little [illegible], comparatively, upon what may be termed the drawing room accomplishments of a gentleman, and the same may probably be said of my sex generally, [illegible] many [illegible] a simple [illegible] of manner, is a thousand times more acceptable to woman than the [illegible] and [illegible] politeness, exquisite etiquette or even an elegant nicety of appearance, However different it may be, and no doubt is, with the other sex. I think it is [illegible] that women are not the most attracted by beauty or mere external advantages; we feel in our natures a desire of superiority, of something to lean upon, to look up to, to respect: it is talents, [illegible] good sense, [illegible] and a good degree of estimation among his fellow men that wins the heart of woman. It is perfectly natural that it should not be so with your sex; the same want is not [illegible] [illegible] why men so [illegible] seek a fine face, form, or [illegible] appearance merely, without so much reference to mind and character.

I feel very deserving [illegible] you should be here before [illegible] 15th May [illegible] all so happy to make your calculations to come [illegible] [illegible] you can [illegible] when [illegible]

Apr. 13th fast day. Do you recollect a year ago when we all kept fast day in my chamber, you were down from your school at Stillwater Lucy was here, and the boys, and we had quite a merry time considering the day. If you were here to day, you would see me in a loose morning dress and shawl, half sick; a large blister drawn on my left arm, to relieve some irritation and pain in my head which has shown itself by ulcers in the ear, and which I think is caused by [illegible] teeth; having a day's respite from school, I improved the opportunity to apply this remedy, though in consequence, have been obliged to deny myself the pleasure of hearing Dr. Pomeroy's sermon to day, upon "The sins of Bangor," he mentioned the subject of discourse last sabbath; his church was crowded even to the aisles, and the sermon excellent, very plain powerful and calculated to do much good: I judge from Lizzie's report: Prof. Shepard has recently preached, and repeated by earnest request, a fine sermon to young men on "Bad Company".

A few evenings after I received your last, Miss Doe and I. by special invitation of Josephine Hall, spent a very pleasant social eve, at her Aunt's Mrs. Veazie's. We met there her "friend," Mr. Morse, with whom I had quite a little chat, and like him; there were five or six students among whom were Mason Snow & Goodrich that you know: White, who boards there, and who mentioned seeing you last fall, is I think really interesting, nothing perhaps great about him but he is so social, easy, natural and pleasant in conversation, yet without descending in the least to small talk, that one cannot but enjoy his society; he told me his mother and sisters are members of [illegible]. Kitty Bartell was there and enquired for you, ~~also~~ Angella Bennett, was there who has made up again with Everett, and will probably soon marry him. Josephine told me when I wrote you, to give her love to you, to send merely her regards she said was too cold and common place. There is something that I like much in Miss Hall, something earnest and truthful in her soul-speaking eye. Is she pious and is her friend?

I had the pleasure a few days ago of reading quite a letter from you to Joseph, containing many topics of interest, which I suppose have been discussed between you: when J. showed it me, I could not stay to read it, had considerable difficulty in obtaining it from him, that I might carry it home [illegible] because he said I should wear it out! What is the reason you do not write such letters to your brother Eliab? he would appreciate them, and he feels the difference you make between him and Joseph, in your correspondence. Do you say that he does not write such letter or so frequent as Joseph does? You as the elder brother, commence writing such regularly to him, and see if you do not get answers. —

Eliab is a noble little fellow and promising: has considerable ready wit and talent, and is very pleasing in his manner; a while ago at an evening visit here, Mary Pomroy philopined him; soon afterwards he sent her a miniature copy of Mrs. Hemans beautiful, with a nice little note containing six or eight lines of poetry addressed to her, very appropriate and really pretty. the whole was done delicately and handsomely, and gives a favourable impression of the young man: he calls up to see me usually every sunday — while I go down to the store to see Joseph two or three times a week, — he seldom comes to see me. Eliab and I passed Tues. eve at Mr. Pomroy's.

Now let us talk a little about the coming 'occasion', not a particularly joyous one to me, but one that must be prepared for and met, and will soon be upon us. 4 Weeks from Sat. Ans. 15th my term is out, and the time is fixed for the middle of the ensuing week, if you can be there as soon, if not, the week after: now it is very important for me to know, as well as for them exactly what day you will be here in Bangor ready to go up: the fact is, as you know already, perhaps, that Lucy found it advisable and necessary to invite as guest Miss Doe (my Lizzie) with whom Lucy is more intimate than any other girl, and Mary Pomroy who you know spent a summer at Milo, has great interest in all there, has wanted to visit there ever since, and is much delighted at the idea of going. Now it is rather doubtful whether Joseph will go at that time: he has just returned from spending a week there & is not fond of being there with any company you know: at Charles' wedding, parties

4

would not be in the room with the company. If he goes up at all he will probably go by himself or ride up with his partner, the point I am coming to is this: if you can be here to go up at the same time, there would be so many of us going that it would be as cheap to have a private carriage (a one horse carryall will take four,— as to stage fare both ways, and far pleasanter— therefore I want you should make your arrangements so as to be able to tell exactly when you will get here and let me know as soon as you can as well as the folks at home.

I think very favourably of mother's returning with you to make a longer or shorter stay as she finds convenient & pleasant: I feel pretty sure of making a visit there at the close of the summer and perhaps she could return with me; she would enjoy being in Boston at the anniversaries the last of May:— her wardrobe is in tolerable readiness and can be fully so,— her chief objection is I believe, the travelling expenses, and that I think among all her children will not be difficult to furnish. I have written within the last fortnight, three long letters to the folks urging them to make all feasible improvements about the premises, and I hope something will be done. I feel that it is rather derogatory to Charles' reputation for enterprise and energy to suffer the grounds about his house, to remain in the state they have the past three years.——

The other front room ought to be finished, for mother's use; it is not right that at her age, and such as she is she has not a comfortable room that she can call her own, appropriated to her own use and for her own things; I fear if it waits for convenience she will have to wait for it a long time, and I am not sure but it will be the duty of [illegible] of us to be at the expense of it. Charles has had rather a hard time of it, and I see no probability of any thing different in future.— — —

What great news we hear from all parts of the world and what great events are taking place! It seems as if we must be on the eve of some [illegible] changes; the [illegible] power must receive a blow from the recent revolutions.—

The [illegible] has been [illegible] this spring, the [illegible] almost [illegible] the [illegible] nearly [illegible], the [illegible] business men and the [illegible] not so [illegible] as [illegible] I [illegible] from what [illegible] said. [illegible]

I do not approve of [engaging?] on tables, nor freezing one's self wholly out of society, it will lead to a selfish rather than a benevolent spirit.— — I expect to see you from [illegible] more exact— your [illegible] is [illegible] to it:— Give my love to all inquiring friends,—

July 15th 1848

Dear Brother

I can scarcely realize that nearly two months have flown since you left and I have not written a line either to you or Mother. The truth is I enjoy writing, next to receiving letters after once making a beginning; but the difficulty is, I fail to begin, I suppose I ought not to say, because I have not time, but sometimes there are so many calls upon the "ship", that day after day is gone before I am aware. I received a short letter from you about a month ago but also had the pleasure of reading yours to Lucy & S.

I wish I could have gone with you and mother; I long for a view of the mountains and valleys the broad meadows and beautifully cultivated grounds of "Old Mass." I suppose the freshness of verdure will be gone when I arrive there in Aug. but I anticipate much enjoyment from the scenery besides the quite different but still greater pleasure of meeting with relatives and old friends. I shall intend to lay your fair under contribution, — some at least, — for excursions, &c, for I expect to make the most of my time and opportunity which perhaps may never come again: Joseph rather discourages me about going, thinks I cannot afford it — but it seems to me — though the avails of my school will be small this summer, — that the money will be wisely spent

One engaged in teaching, year after year, in the same round needs more than in almost any other calling, the change, variety and excitement, yes, and improvement too, of an occasional journey where the mind can enjoy relaxation from care: can peep out beyond its own narrow circle, and see how its fellow travellers jog on, and especially when one can enjoy free social intercourse with old friends: — the healthy action of the social

The whistle is still in [illegible], though dilapidated, — [illegible] occasionally sends a [illegible] blast to [illegible], when we go over and sometimes to twice round; She sends her best regards to you: says you are forgiven your [illegible] in ~~not~~ forgetting her, which was a little [illegible], ~~—~~ — —

affections
it seems to me, tends to brighten and refresh the character ^ which is apt to grow rusty, while secluded, or absorbed only in one's own duties, and pursuits

I feel at present, somewhat uncertain what course to take, — am waiting for some further indication of Providence, — I have always felt that there was much instability in my present situation — there must be in a school of this kind, but especially in my case; Uncle Matty has recently spoken to Joseph about having the schoolhouse moved in order to set a store on the corner; if he insists upon it, expense ~~must be incurred in having it moved to another spot~~ which again may ere long be wanted: besides my school does not give me either the satisfaction or income that my incessant labour ought to bring.

It is very toilsome having both small and large, so much variety of attainment, so much expected too in a private school, so many small classes, work, drawing, &c. and then so variable, the scholars who commence the term, never all finish it, but leave without any notice any time; so I never know what to depend on, and the terms so low, that I can but just pay my expenses: now would it not be better for me to leave at once, & go west or south, where there are, no doubt chances enough, if I could find them to have an easier time and lay up money? — What say you to going with me in the way of your profession to Penn. or Virginia, or to the Western States? I mean in good earnest to set myself about making inquiries, writing letters, to see if some opening cannot be found in which my time and energies may turn to better account than at present. Mr. Wetherell leaves his school in a few weeks. — it is to pass into other hands and how it may affect my school is uncertain but I have no reason to think favorably, as any new teacher will be apt for a time to be popular, in this place.

I want to write to cousin Jerusha Williams, at Lawrence this, but do not know her address since her marriage, I should feel rather doubtful about offering my 'services' to that Association to furnish Teachers for the West, because I should not like to be so trammelled as to be entirely under their direction: don't know but I shall advertise when I get to Boston for a situation at the South would not it be a good plan? I expect to start for Boston in four weeks (i.e. Aug. 12th) Lizzie Doe and I start together, she takes the cars at Portsmouth and goes to visit a friend in [illegible] while I go direct to Northfield or Warwick, make my visit there among the friends for a week or so, then return to Boston with Mother, where Lizzie is to meet me. she has friends in Cambridge; we mean to be at Cambridge Com. and we mean to have a smart beau to wait upon us, viz. my brother Isaac! as without doubt he could leave just a day or two, and it would delight him to be present on that occasion, do you not think so?

I have been to see Lucy several times, have spent one Sabbath with them: she is probably enjoying the happiest period of her life, either past or future, she has no cares or anxieties, no troubles, with bright hopes future: the house is not pretty, but every thing else is pleasant, - Hampden village, reposes quietly on its pleasant green slope at the south, a [illegible], the Penobscot shows glimpses of its placid waters with vessels passing, while in front, the high bank shuts out the view of the river, but descends gently towards the house in pastures and pretty cultivated fields. The 4th which was a day of such show and bustle and turmoil, here, I spent quietly at Hampden alone with Lucy in the forenoon, in the afternoon G. & E came to tea Charles came the day before, spent most of the day in town, but staid at Lucy's two nights and enjoyed the time much.

The new splendid boat 'State of Maine' runs now between Bangor and Portland. I went down to see it the other night, it is very beautiful, carpeting alone this said cost 5,000 - the fare is reduced in all the boats to 1,00. - I should like to stop one day in Boston on my way if it will make no difference [illegible], would my trunk be safe in the rail-road house?

Perhaps you had better not mention that I think any of leaving here.

Please send the enclosed to Mollie as soon as you can, and and please write me soon so that I can have the answer before I start. tell me whether I should have to hire a hack to carry my trunk back and forth if I stop a day or two in Boston on my way and please to tell me in detail all about my route what ~~stage~~ I had best take & where I had best stop Northfield Warwick or Winchester and the fare. I suppose I shall go alone all the way for Mrs. Shepherd and Lizzie who go at the same time stop at Portland so take different boats here, I dread the journey there — — — —

Miss E. Anne Dick
Bangor
July 15th 1848

July 1848
Northfield

[illegible]

[illegible]

I think I am [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I suppose you have heard by this time, that I have given up my situation and left [illegible] from home.

[illegible] at the thought of going a stranger and so far from you all, — we have as a family always enjoyed a great deal in each other and have never been far separated. But I cannot but feel that I am in the right course, Providence has it seems to me, made my way plain. I am not going away to enjoy more, — I look forward to trials, — hope at least of happiness, save that which comes from the consciousness of doing good, of being in the path of duty.

Perhaps I have been too much in a state of repose; conscience, the faculties of the mind, the [illegible] of the heart, may need to be roused to the performance of their proper work; I have been only heeding the [illegible] particularly, and have [illegible] I have been [illegible] to rest in the gratification of my own feelings and wishes without enough considering that I am not [illegible]

My dear [illegible]

[illegible], but brought with a [illegible] My [illegible] [illegible] will be [illegible] [illegible] extended knowledge of my [illegible] and my [illegible].

I received a [illegible] through [illegible] from the Com[illegible] [illegible] inviting me to come, & requesting me to [illegible] before the [illegible] instructions [illegible] given to the staff preparing to go [illegible]. [illegible] it will be a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to go [illegible].

[illegible] [illegible] a large [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] containing [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] with the [illegible]

Miss E. A. Rich
Hartford Ct.
Oct. 4th 1848

Oct. 7th 1848
Northfield

Buffalo 17th, 48

Dear brother

Your letter visited the very day I sent a letter to you, came duly to hand and as you may well imagine was very welcome.

I had also the pleasure of reading a letter from you to the committee for which I thank you very much; it was very timely, and a very happy thought in you to do it; I presume it was of essential benefit to me.

I am now at one of the travellers resting places, the extreme city of the east – the point between the east and the great West. I am bound for Racine, in Racine Co. on the western shore of lake Michigan in Wisconsin. – It is a city of some six or eight thousand inhabitants – I am going to the house of the Presbyterian minister, whose wife has a school for young ladies, – she applied to the 'Board' for a teacher to assist her and ultimately to take the whole charge: I am to board in their family and receive $150, per year clear of all expense; two other places were mentioned to me both in Wis. but they consider Racine the most important point, because it is a flourishing place and the Catholics are trying to gain influence in schools and they want to make a stand against them.

It will be an entirely new situation for me

and I anticipate new trials — indeed I have felt that I am going to meet trials ever since I started, but if I can only obtain strength to meet them aright, it will be better for me. Thus far, except the bitter parting from friends, it has been almost unalloyed pleasure, new scenes, new means of information and improvement; — I wrote you how the time passed at Hartford, I must now give you an account of my journey which has been truly delightful: Gov Slade and Rev. Mr. Newbury — the agents of the Society who receive the applications spent the last few days with us at Hartford and have accompanied us to this place. Mr Newbury goes with us to the end of our journey, but Gov Slade turned his face from us toward the east this morning to our sorrow, I despair of giving you an idea how good and how noble Gov. Slade is — the perfect pattern of a Christian gentleman. We started in the cars 7 A.M. (it will be a week ago tomorrow) — all 24 of us — arrived at Albany at 2 P.M. dined and took tea at the Delavan house, the best hotel, every thing was in splendid style, our gentlemen had business there, so we waited for the evening train, which gave me a fine opportunity to stroll about the city a little I went into the State House which is prettily situated on an eminence surrounded by a high wall enclosing gravel walks, grass plats, and trees: I went into the Senate chamber and Historical rooms, very fine, many beautiful pictures & statues. The

streets are wide, ~~and~~ the dwellings handsome, and on the whole I was much pleased with the part of city that I saw. I became rather tired of the uniformity of Hartford the very expression of the countenances there, seemed in a sort of repose, 'stereotyped,' unlike the animated look of Bangor and of these Western cities.

From Albany we travelled all night ~~to~~ [illegible] miles over a beautiful country by the side of the gently gliding Mohawk; but it was in darkness, and I could only occasionally ~~caught~~ catch glimpses by the moon: we had high backed cushioned cars, very easy for reclining — had a car to ourselves & I rested pretty well: — arrived at Syracuse, quite a large city, at 5 A.M. where the young men gallantly gave the class a break[fast] (quite [illegible]oured you see — we had rather a hon- [illegible] time however to enjoy it, for the cars stopped only an hour, and were soon whizzing away on the road to Rochester where we arrived about dinner time, and by a previous arrangement were scattered about two by two, in different families — among the first in the place, who generously entertained us until Mond. noon 4 days; affording us a nice time to rest, enjoy ourselves & look round the city: Rochester is a fine place 30 to 40,000 people — 1/5 catholics; I visited Genessee falls, where the water falls over a perpendicular semicircular ledge about 80 feet — on the opposite side of the bank was a long row of flour mills. We started for Buffalo yester noon, & arrived here after five hours; here we divide in two companies — a part go the southern route through

Cincinnati — a part by the lakes — as the best boat did not sail till this eve, we spent the day in Buffalo, and I suppose I might, by starting early have gone out to Niagara but I decided it was not best — perhaps when I return you may be in this region and we visit it together. — This eve at 7, 12 of us take passage in "The Queen City" a fine large boat, which goes from here to Chicago, all round the lakes — a journey rather to be dreaded at this season we shall be out 4 or 5 days: if you have occasion to write down east, don't mention my going by

the lakes as Mother would perhaps worry some and I shall write as soon as I get to Racine — I shall hope to find a letter from you soon after I get there & then I will write the particulars of my situation: I intend to write about 4 letters every month one to a week and I hope to get regularly all particulars from home and friends. All the Amine

Mr. A. S. Mattoon
Northfield
Ms.

east

Miss C. A. Rich
Buffalo
Oct. 17th 1848

Oct. 23rd 1848
Northfield

Miss E. A. Rich
Racine
Nov 18th
Nov 21st 1848

Dec. 9th /48
Ans.

Racine Nov. 18th '48

Dear Brother

I was made glad yesterday by receiving your letter — the first and only one I have received from my friends in the four weeks I have been here. I could not however expect letters till now, for mine must first reach them. I wrote two letters home each of five pages, the second day after my arrival and am now "looking" every day for answers.

I did begin to wonder at not hearing from you, and being aware of a little propensity on your part to imprudence, had begun to feel some anxiety, fearing you were sick with brain fever or something else.

I regard it as one (among many others — of the favouring providences of God toward you, that you did not [illegible] go to Alabama, where particularly in your business, that climate must, it seems to me injure your constitution, perhaps render you an invalid for life — When you leave New England, come toward the West, where is ample scope for talents, enterprise, and business of all sorts, where population is coming in [illegible] a vast wave, and society composed of conflicting elements, is in a state of commotion, of unstable and changing character, yet ready for any impress; so that if right influences are thrown in, now, they will have an effect, in determining its future cast. For this reason I am glad I am here, to cast in my mite of effort and influence, and wish all my brothers and sisters as well as my mother and other friends were here too; — the good influence which I trust they all exert, would be increased tenfold in its consequences, in this flourishing and truly important portion of our country.

My anticipations are agreeably disappointed in my experience thus far, of Western country and Western life, but I [illegible]

you will want to know all about it; so I will endeavour to give a faithful account of myself. My passage of five days on the lakes, was as pleasant, as smooth water fine weather, a commodious boat, plenty of good company, and excellent fare, with an ability to enjoy it all could make it. At Mackinaw the boat stopped a hour, to trade in fish and I had an opportunity to walk all over the fort (fort Holmes) — which was a curiosity to me having seen only ruins of forts before, this is in good repair kept by a small guard is on a steep rocky hill, overhanging the little, compact town of Mackinaw which lies right on the shore and consists of a single street a few rods in length thickly lined with houses, looking quite picturesque from the top of the fort; on that morning the surrounding Indians were there, to receive their annuities with blankets over their shoulders and painted faces. — I saw trouts there, from one to two feet long — the chief trade is in fish.

I arrived here at dark, Sabbath eve, without a single accident or untoward circumstance, was cordially received by Mr. & Mrs. Hopkins and found myself in a snug cottage, surrounded by a small garden, every thing nice and pretty around, the house carpetted all over, prettily furnished, quite an air of nicety pervading it — Mr. H. is the parson of the Presbyterian church — the largest congregation in the "city," — when he came three years ago, there was no school in the place, conducted on religious principles, and his wife, being a teacher of some celebrity was solicited by some pious parents to open a school, which she did as a means of usefulness and much good has already resulted, though she has had difficulties to encounter and opposition from the irreligious, but has now a flourishing female school of more than sixty, mostly young ladies; I am the "assistant," but she takes the juvenile department and I have the sole charge of the principal room containing from 30

to 46 young ladies; my task is pleasant and less laborious than any school I was ever engaged in, because we are nearly of an age, and older, and I like it much to have some one to share the responsibility with me. I have two classes each of sixteen to whom I teach calisthenics, and I wish you could see them practise — it is a pretty sight, there are various graceful steps and figures in which they keep step and time to music: the Seminary is right across the street contains two school rooms and two class rooms; we have company in at the close of every month: my salary seems rather small for such a school, but Mrs. H. has had to make sacrifices and cannot afford more, it is a very important stand in respect to influence and Christian effort, and my situation is every way so much pleasanter than I did or had any right to expect, that I think myself highly favored, and can only wonder that where I expected trials, and hardships I should find every thing so pleasant. The family are Vermonters, genuine Yankees, only two children girls of 14 and 8 years the elder has taken lessons in music and is preparing for Hadley school. but especially there is an aunt Mary in the family — elderly maiden lady who takes all the charge of the house no relation but has always lived with them, she is a pattern for me to imitate when I become a "maiden aunt" living round with some of you. The style of preaching here is much more animated than in old places, and the congregation far more alert and attentive: the style of Mr H. seems really piquant but calculated to do good and keep the attention, he has very good talents and appears to be a very good man, he has a fine library which I shall take much pleasure in improving.

Mrs. Hopkins is quite as earnest, quick, and straight ahead, as your sister Annie, and just about as frank and openhearted, with perhaps a little more prudence; so I think we shall get along pretty well together. Should you not think so?

Now I must describe this famous little city to you as well as I am able. It is situated along the [illegible] of the lake about [illegible] feet above, gradually declining toward the north, where [illegible] river, a deep stream, after meandering gracefully along, through the midst of the place empties in, affording a fine and secure harbour for vessels, giving too, pleasing variety to the scenery; the banks of this river are high on one side covered with tall cedar trees: it is about as large as Piscataquis at Dover; the village seems an almost perfect level, in the business streets there are brick sidewalks, elsewhere, they are bordered by smooth grass plots like Northfield in [illegible] stumps are not unknown.

Ten years ago, there were but one or two solitary huts in the midst of the oak openings, now it is a place of considerable business and fast increasing: lumber merchants carry on a profitable business, sending companies to Michigan in the winter for lumber, which bears a high value, because the country around is scantily supplied with timber: vast quantities of wheat are raised in this region and brought here and both wheat and flour shipped: men of business say there is room for two or three more merchants, ministers [illegible], and [illegible] would be well stationed here; they would have less perplexity, and do more good. This is on the thoroughfare from Milwaukie to Chicago connected with the latter by telegraphic express and by ~~that~~ means, of course with eastern cities: Chicago has about 40,000 inhabitants, is the great [illegible] place, connecting the South, North and East, by Mississippi, and great lakes: [illegible] boats are constantly running on the lakes from Buffalo bringing crowds of emigrants and immigrants: there were on board with me, six different whole families, (of the better class that came to my knowledge) all but one, settling in Wisconsin. [illegible] residents from six or seven European countries also, families from the cities of [illegible], New York, Albany, Troy, Portland and Bangor, [illegible] places of worship in five of them services are performed in a foreign tongue, all but one [illegible], [illegible], Dutch, Irish, German. The summer is mild, warm, bright, the soil has a dark brown very fine grain and dry, the ground [illegible] a [illegible] at night but not muddy. [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible]; the [illegible], which are [illegible] in a [illegible] part: three or four miles back there is a beautiful rolling prairie dotted with clumps of trees and houses, and settlements extend west more than 50 or 60 miles the college of Beloit is situated due west 68 miles: to [illegible] the Farber's line in the "Missions" at the [illegible] would be a more difficult journey than to Buffalo.

I should not think your present situation not very pleasant and the worst of it is you will always be liable to unpleasant changes of location, rough lodgings and perhaps still rougher company: your employment taken in all its bearings may tend to discipline and strengthen the character especially where one is placed in a situation to exercise influence and control over others, this leads one to measure one's own powers and know how to govern and improve them — but it seems to me there are disadvantages not slight, the want of a settled home — the want of improving society, the want of literary advantages and of religious privileges.

Do not deprive yourself of a home (S.e.) a wife only till you can find a good one — — — —

Has cousin Joseph been working with you? Is he intending to engage in that business? You did not mention any other of our friends I want to whisper in your ear that you must not follow your feelings of like and dislike but treat cousin H. with the same attention you do those relatives — I wrote to Marcia not long since give my love to them each and all when you see them and write me every particular about yourself; when I write I expect you wish to hear about myself, — I begin to wonder some at not hearing from our folks think Lucy must be just about moving from Hampden perhaps on a visit to Wis.

Affectionately Annie

You think I am quite at the extreme west I suppose, but, in reality, I am just in the centre of the country; Maine at one extremity, California at the other; you 'know' in media est veritas'!!

E. A. Rich
Racine
Jan 3 ?

Racine Jan. 23^d 1849.

Your kind letter, my dear brother, of the 10th Ult. reached me after 16 days passage and gave me much pleasure, as you may well suppose: — in my letter to J. and E., I told them that you would sympathise with me, in some degree, in the pleasure of hearing from friends when away from them all, but that they could not, for they have never been separated from all. I am much obliged for your prompt answer to mine, — it reached me in the midst of the week of christmas vacation and I wanted to answer it the next day, but happened to have several letters due: I spent the three first days of vacation in copying an elegant little engraving from the Eclectic, the 'Water Dipper': the remainder of the week in writing letters, I wrote five long ones, — the first to Mother and folks there, one to Mrs. Pomroy who had felt hurt because I did not communicate my intentions of leaving to her, other letters to teachers who came out with me, to whom I had promised to write. — Since then I have written two, closely written of six pages each, one to the boys and Lucy the other to my friend Lizzie Doe, I feel bad that this has not been sent on its long way before this, for I shall think it long before I hear from you again but have been prevented from day to day and week to week, We have began a new term, prepared for an examination, which on account of a tremendous snow storm, came in the first of the new term instead of end of the last, as was intended; — 'We' have had a famous donation party, which with the bustle preceding, and the confusion following, turned the house upside down for nearly a week eight or ten ladies here to help arrange, set tables, wash dishes — it came off in elegant style, worthy of any city, there seems to be a 'very good society' here yet free from that slavery to aristocracy, and mere form that exists in Bangor.

Our parties here usually occur on very stormy evenings, & those who give the [illegible] send round a great number [of] sleighs for the guests carrying ten or twelve at a time. Entertainments famous; cold roast turkeys, ice cream [illegible] &c.

The lady who rather had the direction of matters, is the wife of Capt. Johnson of the U. S. who was in actual service on one the forts near Lake Champlain, more recently had the command at Mackinaw where he was converted in rather a remarkable manner, had previously been quite regardless of serious things, accustomed to carouse with brother officers but accompanied a female friend from politeness, to a prayer meeting, was impressed and from that time took a decided stand, informing his gay associates at once of the different course he would pursue and taking upon himself at once the duties of a Christian. I have attended two delightful concerts of the Alleghanians (tickets presented — have been out to evening parties some, and attend singing school once a week, and am studying Latin! besides this I have bought quite a sizeable blank book and commenced a journal with the new year which I pompously entitle 'Incidents of Western life', — do you not think I am busy? I have a great mind to quote from it my account of new years day. —

"Breakfasted by candle light, company had passed the night, a gentleman from Mass. teacher of music, conversation on musical vibrations, 32 to the lowest note, 8 more to each higher, — harmony most sweet to the refined ear when dissonant sounds are overpowered by sweet tones, Mr. Hopkins compared it to moral beauty greatest when, by conflict, goodness and excellence triumph over evil; is the sentiment correct? It reminded me of Taylors Sat. eve. Will it not appear in the end, that in the diapason of the universe, the moral dissonance now so perplexing to us, will but enhance the sweet harmony of the whole!" Went to prayer meeting at 10 o clock, — good meeting. P.M. Heard Mr. Marks, (orator) address to Sons of Temperance in Epis. church. The body of the church was filled with fine looking men — a fine opportunity to hold up before mind, truth, personal responsibility, sound principles, &c. it would have done me good to have heard Prof. Shepard, or Mr Pomeroy address them, — I heard a curious medley, nothing

vehemently set forth, after having oddly enough for the time & occasion, read all the prayers for sabbath worship — a quotation from 'Thanatopsis;' all that was worth hearing, a few common places, unconnected, without point or appropriateness, those thirty men went away, turning into ridicule what was said, with scarcely a salutary impression on the mind. Eve went to Festival of S. O. T. with Mr. Hopkins, saw a crowded motley mass of coarse looking men and women, — young girls arrayed in ballroom style;— walked around a few moments and came away; after we left a regular ball commenced, which continued most all night.' ~~[illegible]~~ This is rather a long extract I believe, fear you will think it tedious by the time you have read it,

We have had a real New Eng. winter so far, — fine sleighing and clear cold weather for the last six weeks; thermometer 10 above 0, to 10 or 14 below, A gentleman was in last evening, who has been journeying west 200 miles to Missisippi to Cassville, he said the river there is two miles wide, was frozen over, so hard that heavy teams were passing and going on the ice 200 miles to St. Peters'. He described the capital, Madison, as a flourishing place situated on high ground between two lakes in view of both; 1500 inhabitants;— he visited the mining district, — Potosi is a place of 2000 inhab. but of the character too often found in mining population, no church - no minister - no meetings but that of bowling alleys and billiard rooms - stores open on the sabbath - business only interrupted by amusement.

Sat. Jan 28th.) Mond eve I brought down my portfolio seated myself by the stand to write this letter, just as I was commencing, the bell rang two gentleman came in, spent the evening — the next eve I wrote the above though with such a poor light that it gave me the headache — they burn candles and they happen to be poor — the next eve was prayer meeting. Thurs. eve attended a large party. Frid. eve there was company here

Do write me a good long letter soon. and make no apology for writing of yourself for it is the very subject that I want to hear about.

So the end of another week has come, and my letter not set out on its journey yet. I received a good letter from cousin Maria, in which she mentions your having been sick. you mentioned feeling ill in yours: Do be careful! I have a sort of prevailing feeling of anxiety about you from my conviction that you are too regardless or rather you presume too much on your general good health expose yourself too much or over task your strength. I wish your business could be here, while I stay here. I sometimes feel rather lonely have not got acquainted so as to feel real companionship with any: the family are kind, every thing pleasanter than I expected but no particular congeniality. Mr. R. is quite a story teller a kind hearted man, very pleasant in his family — in respect to his mind there is perhaps a defect, in respect to that faculty which Mr. Kirk of Hartford calls the foundation of mental character; viz. the imagination, upon which he gave us a fine lecture: he calls it the mirror of the mind, reflecting its ideas — the canvass on which its impressions are delineated: he considers essential to a properly cultivated imagination; 1st To clear away the fog — to see clearly the picture presented to the mind's eye, — 2d To see it in just proportion the filling up as well as the outline, in other words, a delicate perception 3d To be able to retain the picture before the mind as long as it is wanted 4th to see no unreal images: it is the last, that seems in some degree attributable to Mr. R. Is there not much truth in this idea of the importance of the imagination? The part of town in which we are, is the most elevated & pleasantest, and here the water is good, in the lower portions of the place it is not.

As to railroads, there is one in progress I believe southwest from Chicago, but I hear no talk about it. Plank roads are thought better, suiting the necessities of the country around which is, as you are aware a great wheat and corn country: it is thought that plank roads better facilitate transportation and trade, on which the prosperity of these lake ports depend, — than railroads would do. They can be built at the cost of 1500. per mile & last ten years. ten miles of one, has been completed west from Chicago, and that yields a profit of 80 percent to the stockholders.

all get rich in buying wheat and shipping it to Buffalo. half a million bushels were shipped last year from this port. from eight to ten thousand bushels come in on teams daily in good travelling. There has been a little small pox here & a great deal of alarm which injured business for a time

The school is quite full, flourishing, and pleasant this term I have charge of 58 young ladies. some classes going down to recite to Mrs. H who herself takes charge of the juvenile department. My task is more pleasant and easy than I had reason to expect, it is a relief to have the main responsibility on the shoulders of another: there is a very direct religious influence exerted over the pupils and I believe much good will be the result. My health is, & has been good: they accuse me of having a fuller face than at first, I am in danger of not exercising enough, my walk to school being only across the street.

Does the yellow fever prevail in that region? Six men talk of going to California from here with an ox team across the country

One or two noted men from this region talk going — but as the government has taken it in hand, perhaps the folly will be checked.

A charter is obtained for building a plank road from this place west to Rock river, ~~[illegible]~~ for timber are commenced, ready for spring, I do not know whether it is any like constructing rail. suppose the beginning in both cases must be grading: there will be two bridges to be made Would not you like to come and take the direction thereof, and could you, in respect to knowledge experience &c Somebody I presume will have handsome pay in doing it. I think Mother rather grows neglegent about writing: I think it time to have another from her and I want it much. I would give much for a day only, with her and with loving sister Lucy and all my dear good kind brothers and sisters I do not know how to wait so long as it will probably be before seeing them, and I dread some change, I want to find all as I left them, yet I cannot expect it and this is the bitterest part of absence from friends. Give my love to all the friends, and do my brother take time to go and see them if possible. Has Hannah's son recovered. Tell cousin Joseph that there is a fine field out here for an enterprising young man. that this place affords room for more merchants and that the men who engage in business here

One man here who talks of going to California, is an Englishman a physician, Son of a Clergyman of the Church of Eng. who left left his children a fortune of 30 000 dolls each, this one spent all his, then came to America to retrieve his fortune studied his profession is a homoeopathist quite a gentleman and rather interesting. his wife quite a lady. Quite a variety of characters here. The sister of the wife of Sir Robert Peel, lives here in poverty, was forbidden to marry the one she wanted by her father who lives or lived in London, she in revenge eloped with ~~one~~ of the servants came to America — received from her father 1500 £.

which her husband (a thriftless fellow) has spent & she is glad to take in washing or any thing by which she can gain a living. yet her indomitable spirit will not allow her to acknowledge to her friends that she wants any comfort tells them she has every things she wants, when her sister sent over a quantity of rich, but second hand clothing: she sent it back with much spirit saying she did not want their cast off clothing! Yet she is a professor of religion and He who looks on the heart sees its conflicts and sufferings can alone be her Judge. —

March 20th.
Racine ~~Feb~~ 7th 1849

Dear brother

Your letter dated Feb 17th came safely to hand two or three weeks since; My leisure has been much occupied with school duties since that time: - I have also written a long letter to my friend Miss Doe due from me, - otherwise I should have answered yours sooner. I feel desirous of having this reach you soon, hoping what I write may influence your plans somewhat. If you should be here, and wish the situation, I think you could be chief director, engineer or whatever on this veritable plank road to be commenced this spring, provided you understand the construction of bridges for two will have to be built, it is said. I spoke with Mr. Hopkins about it, he made inquiry of one of the managers of the business, who said no man was engaged as yet, & he would mention it to others &c - nothing very definite to be sure, but it might not be amiss for you, (unless something very promising offers thereabout, - to take a trip to the West even upon uncertainties, look round and see what is to be done in this part of the world - it would not be time lost entirely even if you found no situation that you liked, though that would be hardly probable in the midst of all the enterprise and rapid increase of these new places. How delightful it would be for me, for you to be here, enjoying yourself, being useful and making money. Had you not better come and see? I suppose your route would of course be from Boston to Buffalo on the W. R. R. then I should think at this season, across the central rail road from Detroit through Michigan to, or near St Joseph's on the E. side of Lake Michigan - would be preferable; because quicker

and because the early passage of the lakes is both rough and dangerous. The expense I do not know but think it does not exceed, about twenty dollars. The railroad across Michigan is not finished, quite, to "St Jo's", — about twenty five miles of the worst travelling by stage that ever was, — like a quag-mire I should judge from description: From "St Jo's" a boat would bring you across the lake to Chicago, Southport, Racine, Milwaukie or Sheboyagan as desired. boats stop at all these places on the western shore. Chicago has suffered from a freshet recently. The great quantity of snow made the streams very high and the city, — in no part above five feet higher than the lake, — has been covered with with water though not of much depth. The ice dammed up the small river that empties in there, a vessel was loosed from anchorage, went with such force as to capsize another vessel, and some lives were lost. I am told that in any part of Chicago, three feet below the surface, water is found; below the water, is a solid bed of clay: — in some places holes are found without any bottom = not a very pleasant place of residence methinks, but a great centre for business

A party of about twenty started 1st March for California by land. with several teams drawn by oxen and cows, conveniences for camping and cooking, and a years provision for each. They are to join other parties at Independence on the borders of Indian Ter. then proceed under the guidance of Kit Carson — the Indian woman who was guide to Fremont in his expedition through California & Oregon. A man from the country back reported here, that he met this company when 30 or 40 miles on their journey, that one man was weeping, heartily repenting the undertaking: a sorry time they must have, travelling through the wilderness through the rainy muddy spring.

I am in good health – my duties in school as pleasant as in any I was ever engaged, but my time occupied some out of school with Drawing, Composition, and studying – have no time to be homesick do sometimes feel the want of companionship with old and tried friends, congenial, especially with those of my own dear family –

People here are collected from various places and jostled together like a crowd on a steamboat, – they become neighbours, friends perhaps, but different from old friends. This is a fine place for business, some men that came here a few years ago penniless, have made a handsome property by trade in wheat chiefly, there are sixteen large warehouses all full, waiting for navigation – trade is chiefly to New York and Buffalo. I owe letters to all our folks – have received four from there since I have written – mean to answer them soon.

I hope you will write as soon as you receive this let me know your plans, and when you will be here, if you come. Mrs. Hopkins wishes me to ask you to buy some common linen hdks. and bring to us because they are dearer here, that is, if you have time and find it convenient, we should like 1 doz. at about ,17 or ,20 each ½ doz. at 2/ or 3/: if you come, – if you stop in Boston long enough, if you wish, ask Mrs. Chase to buy the hdks. she will know where and how to get a good bargain; – ~~also if and if, we should like to have you buy ½ doz pairs good unbleached cotton hose~~ I earnestly desire that, when you go to Boston next, whether you come here or not, that you would call on Mrs. Chase, opposite 32 Elliot Str. and tell her particularly about me, I promised to let her know of my fate, and only wrote her from Buffalo. – also the same to Mrs. Caleb Metcalf's – but do'nt call on Mrs. Child: she treated me with such uncalled for frigidity when I called last, that I desire none of the family should trouble her again. Mr. Hopkin planted tomato lettuce melons in hot beds yesterday

It seems quite spring-like, grass begins to look green though the snow banks are but just gone – indeed there is one more under the north window – the walking is quite dry and ~~that~~ some a propeller passed down the lake yesterday.

Affec.ly ~~Sister~~ Anne

Mr. I. S. Metcalf.
Civil Engineer Manchester.
~~Granby Corner~~
~~Mass.~~

Anne
Racine Wis
March 20th 49

Manchester
April 26th 1849
Written

Give much love from me to cousins all, and friends. I intend writing to Maria soon. —

Excuse this letter, I have written in haste, in the evening with a poor light.

We had a short snow storm this morning — but generally [illegible] pleasant weather for [illegible] the last two or three weeks. Apr. 13th.

Two letters I have received from my brother at Bangor, for which he has my hearty thanks, — one dated Jan 31st the other Feb. 9th — much obliged for the items respecting Bangor people and news of the place: it is far from being true that such will be uninteresting almost any thing relating to that region I shall be glad to hear about, I see no Eastern papers except N. Y. Evangelist and little eastern news. therefore do not excuse yourselves from writing I beg. As for me, you can take no interest in the people or scenes that surround me, — I have nothing new or striking to relate of myself and all the information I can pick up of the West will soon be exhausted. I can tell how they elect a mayor 'out west': there were four candidates: two proposed themselves and made great efforts in their own behalf — their friends paraded the streets on election day, in a great cart with a flag containing the name — with men in masks tin trumpets and triangles — one took pains to stop at the Seminary door at recess and give cheers to the girls assembled to the door to look. Another a worthless fellow was nominated in sport as the workingmen's candidate, the nomination was carried; he felt himself insulted, vowed he would be elected if money could do it, bought over the grogshops to his interest and reported that he had 150 dolls. to spend if successful; he actually received a large number of votes, but was defeated: was burnt in effigy in during the day. Happily, worth, probity and good principles prevailed and Judge Bryan is Mayor, a firm friend of temperance.

A party of twenty or thirty have gone from this region to California by land — several teams with cows for oxen conveniences to live by the way — expect to join other parties at Independence on the border of Ind. Ter. to proceed under the guidance of Kit Carson the Indian woman who was guide to Fremont. There has been quite a flood at Chicago: it is but few feet above the level of the lake in any part — the ice was dammed in the river there — the water carried a vessel from its place which in its way capsized two more

some lives were lost and much property. Three feet below the surface any where in Chicago, water is found - below the water is a solid bed of clay. This place Racine has advantages of situation over most others on the lake in respect to healthfulness and a good harbour, as well as pleasant trees, but there is some perplexity now about school lands. It seems, land was given by Virginia for school funds, a mile square for each township of six miles square, - the middle section, as it lies, whether in a swamp or in a lake - one third here is in the lake, and the whole at Southport 10 miles from here,) Now the wise Legislature of the State has taken this fund into their own hands to apportion out to the different towns; - the school section here is the finest and best part of the city, has been taken up in lots by people who have improved them by buildings, gardens &c. paying a small yearly tax. these ~~lands~~ ~~lands~~ lots have the past winter been valued by commissioners, professedly without reference to improvements, at the round sum of two hundred thousand dolls. Mr. H's. two lots for house and school in all 1/2 acre at $825, The owners refuse to pay, can put it off in court several years - in consequence, there is no school money and none but private schools.

The cedars are 'bona fide' red cedars the tallest kind of tree, good for posts, & shipbuilding but not for shingles - The oak openings look just like an old New Eng. orchard, only larger trees, - this place was covered with a dense forest of birch and other kinds as well as oaks: The want of timbered land is a general characteristic of the country back, though as yet probably enough is found for necessary purposes: doubtless a disadvantage, but counterbalanced by the great fertility of the soil, which yields abundant crops of wheat after having been exhausted by crops of corn several years, I have forgotten the amount to the acre but two men will, with a reaping machine worked with horses - reap twenty acres in a day - these farmers can sell for cash - 50 pr bushel is less than the usual price - wheat enough to buy all the fuel and every thing else they need. In some places, in Illinois

on rich bottom lands, wheat cannot be raised at all, the stalks grow so rank and mat together, there successive crops of corn are raised for twenty years, the ears three times as large as Yankee corn grows on New Eng. rocks, and so high that a man cannot hang his hat on the ears:- one man can cultivate 40 acres, yields 75 bushels to the acre: it is quite common to see log houses with corn growing around them, higher than the house & almost hiding it. Mr. H. told me that when he lived in Ohio, and the severe laws of that State against runaway slaves, were in force, a number escaped to Ohio, and took refuge in a fifty acre field of corn then nearly ripe, which concealed and sheltered them like a thick grove of trees, affording them sustenance till they could make good their escape. Mr. H. is quite a story teller a very pleasant man, a vermonter, but lived several years on the shores of Lake Champlain in New York, in rather humble circumstances I judge, from his remarks, not from his present appearance -

He was speaking of fishing one day and described to me his home: on the outlet of Lake George separated from Lake Champlain by a low range of hills; - at the foot of the range is a small plateau on the shore and near the old fort of Ticonderoga where he said he had many a time played dug up lead &c. His mother was famous for fishing; would often come to the door when he was ready to melt with heat and fatigue on a warm summer afternoon, and he would hear the welcome sound "Hopkins' - so she called her husband:- will you let 'Tim' go fishing? when they would go out on the lake together in a small boat, take the fine large fish, frequently staying till the moon silvered the placid lake: No doubt he tasted some of the purest and sweetest of life's pleasures in that mountain home, - the vivid remembrance of which, no after scenes will have power to dim - Perhaps my brothers in their boyish exploits and excursions on the quiet and solitary river and around the retired home of their childhood, had pleasures more free, fresh and joyous than will ever again be

E. A. Rich
Racine
Apr. 13 1849

their lot. — higher happiness they may taste, but it must be mixed with that base alloy, — earthborn care. - -

As in place [illegible], I mentioned the profit yielded by that at Chicago, [illegible] in quantity in this and other places, and this [illegible] they are proceeding vigorously with [illegible] men are around in the country to get the stock taken. Mr. H. spoke to the directors about an engineer to take charge, found they had one engaged, and I have written to Isaac about it, — if he is out of business he may think best to take a trip west — probably if on the spot, he could obtain the place, which, doubtless will be a lucrative one. The channels of trade are by the lakes to Buffalo and New York goods are mostly purchased at the latter place and are somewhat higher at retail than in Eastern cities. board about the same as in Bangor. There is no doubt that men with capital, make large profits: the owner of the largest warehouse here came a few years ago, without a cent of his own: — was furnished with funds by some one at the east: he has made a handsome fortune (1600. by trade in wheat. You could without any doubt do well if some moneyed man would employ you to trade with his capital here. I am sorry to learn Mr. Brown & Kimball's affliction, but I do not wonder much at it; children in Bangor are not brought up right and Christians parents will perhaps learn some lessons in a painful way. Mrs. Sylvester has two nieces living here from Belfast, also a lawyer from Belfast & Mr Worden. By one of these ladies I hear that George Dow, is in Natchez. Charles Gargill, son of Mrs. Dr. Jordan of Bangor called on me Tues. he has just started for Bangor by the lakes; he has been spending the winter here: came west on account of his health. Two steamboats passed yesterday, they say business begins to be quite brisk on main Street. A pretty light house stands on the shore in the midst of the village the care of which is worth $500. to the occupant: a new Post master has been appointed. I am very happy to hear of any calls made to Miss Doe, hope they will be more frequent. Is the 5 dolls due on my board paid yet? How does that school prosper? Can the house be sold? At the first of May 60 dolls or more will be due me which I shall not need to use but I suppose they will not want to pay me, for they built the Seminary & house with borrowed money and have constant payments to make [illegible]. I suppose they will be willing to pay me interest at the end of the year. I have seen E. French and judge she is a nice girl, it is hard finding one just right of either sex. It seems a long time since I have received any letters from any of you — I feel the want of some much. I think Lucy will like about as well on the whole, to live in Hampden if she can have a neat pretty home not too far from Bangor — there is an element in Bangor society that I do not like: don't feel as if I ever want to live there again (the end) [illegible]

Sister Annie
Racine
July 4 1849

Mrs Ainsworth
July 14 1849
Recd

I am astonished at myself, and ashamed my dear brother, that it is the fourth of July and your letter dated last of Apr. not answered yet. Shall I begin with an apology for so long delay — I fear you will accept none as good that I can give. I think I had better promise to do better in future, ask you to excuse me and generously answer this immediately, for it is a long time since I have heard from you, my delay is the greatest loss to myself, for a letter from any of you is a treasure to me. I have recently written to Mother Joseph, Eliab, Lucy and Lizzie Loe which with some needful plying of the needle has occupied my time out of school of late. We have closed a term since I wrote and ~~got~~ well along through another, — had examinations three successive afternoons — many visitors — two notices were put in the papers, one by a lawyer who was formerly from Belfast Me. Wish you could have seen my classes in Calisthenics perform some 15 or 16 figures as complicated as dancing though unlike, being not so rapid movements and exercises with the arms as well as feet, designed to promote health & develope gracefully the whole figure: - I had last term four classes each of sixteen — they keep step to music singing themselves; it requires much pains and labour to train them to do it well and keep time. This term I have quite a large class of beginners in Drawing for whom I am obliged to prepare patterns in part there being no good ones to be obtained here.

I congratulate you on your good fortune in obtaining so good a situation: - Providence has favored you remarkably; be thankful and do good. I fully appreciate your disappointment in your

home: it must have been quite a trial to make inclination yield to duty. ~~[illegible]~~. Mother and Almeda wrote me about Joseph, and I felt very bad till I heard more particulars from Lucy, I have since received two from him, one very short though; I do not feel discouraged about - can hardly say I feel more anxiety about him than I have all the time for the last two years, for I have known he was violating the laws of his being both physical and mental - have been in fear that something would come upon him: now that he is making it his business to try to get well, I cannot but hope he will, he is so young and has so good a constitution, which he has not injured in the worst way viz. by dissipation, - though he has injured it.

Probably he has received an injury to his spinal column already irritated by an overworked brain, Nothing he can do, it seems to me will be more beneficial than the change of scene, air, and agreeable occupation of the mind, furnished by travelling: hope he will be satisfied to give up every thing like business for a year at least - there will be time enough then, and enough for him to do; hope he will spend some time with you and hope he will come here too, - a little expense is of small consequence compared with health: I do not want he should stay all summer at Milo for he will be lowspirited, and feel the influence of the care, care, that ever reigns paramount there. I feel that it is the hand of Providence that has stopped him in his career - has set him aside for a time to make him perhaps much more useful and happy - another three years like the last, would leave him a wreck in health if not in mind, now his illness, relaxation from business will I trust with the blessing of God, bring back the fresh and healthy tone of mind of former years. You have not yet suffered care to crush and

and crowd ~~out~~ the fresh happy feelings of boyhood's days, nor has Eliab, but how is it with you now? I fear you are fast becoming the man of business merely. I often think of the happy times we have had, how much we have enjoyed in each other as a family, and the thought comes that perhaps these times will never return, yet I believe it is possible to retain in the heart "the dew of youth" and not suffer it to become sere, withered and callous with earthborn cares. There is much of emptiness in the fashion and garniture of society, in the hollowheartedness of friends and acquaintance, but family affection when duly cherished is the sweet drop in the bitter waters of life, and becomes the fountain of happiness supplying all its streams. — I feel rather sad — for my thoughts have dwelt all day upon former scenes: A year ago this day I went early in the morning to Lucy's quiet home at Hampden where I enjoyed the day with them, — Charles Samuel, J. and E coming to dinner going back to celebration at Bangor, again all the[m] at tea after which we took a ride down through lower village. — two years ago, Joseph, Eliab, Lucy and I (she was assisting me in school then) went up to Milo in a carriage by ourselves two days before the fourth, I picked strawberries took a delightful sail with Eliab alone up the river, had a ride up the new road with Charles and Mother then J. E. and I rode back to Bangor arriving just after sunset while the fire rockets were going up into the clear sky: now I am 'way off surrounded by strangers who care not for me have been in my chamber most of the day sewing and writing: this has been quite an exciting day here for they have had a famous celebration oration public dinner, on a smooth green public square skirted by large old oak trees near the bank of the lake — a beautiful spot and a great crowd, I went out a short time but became weary of it

and came away leaving the rest of the family there: 36 little girls with wreaths and roses represented each with a banner the different states and territories; and sung temperance songs. Mr. Hopkins persuaded his little daughter, who was one of them — to have Maine for her state, — a gentleman, a stranger — seeing it on her banner requested her to come forward and gave her a gold dollar as he said from respect to his native state.

These little girls performed in calisthenics too, on the green in the hollow square round which the tables were set, to the great admiration of the assembled crowd. The Sons of Temperance took a prominent part in the exercises of the day.

My health is very good, more perfect I think than is usual for me at this season: — the spring has been extremely backward from the influence of the lake winds but vegetation looks charming by now; This is truly a lovely spot, — the streets have been all graded this spring they seem better shaded with large trees than Bangor while the character of the land so perfectly smooth and level without stones or pebbles, gives it a cultivated appearance like an old settled place. Every thing about the house is pleasant, perfect neatness reigns in and around it, — the street is quiet airy, free from dust, commands a fine view of the lake with vessels constantly passing — is ~~about~~ the most elevated part of the city. — In the large and well laid out garden ~~surrounding~~ enclosing the house, two venerable oaks wave their thick dark foliage. a dozen peach trees about as high as a man's head flourish, while black, red and white raspberries blackberries, currants, strawberries grapes, are growing at a rapid pace under the July sun. besides are quantities of tomatoes, growing enormous pie plants and plenty of lettuce and radishes for the table. The Seminary is enclosed in a square planted with garden vegetables, strawberries and currants while a row of flower beds border the fence all round which the scholars own and take care of.

I have just been walking about the garden and picking the ripe strawberries. I should think more than a quart ripen daily in both gardens:— our next neighbour has twice picked from his garden half a peck at a time. A week ago last Sat. Mr. Hopkins informed me early in the morning that I was to have a ride to the prairie, accordingly about 7½ Mr Mrs. & myself, set off in a nice buggy wagon: the day was very warm:—the plank road extremely dusty but there was no wind the atmosphere a little hazy tempering the heat of the sun somewhat, so the ride proved pleasant. The view of the prairie is delightful; as far as the eye could reach, was a gently undulating plain, with here and there clumps of trees:— neat cottages scattered all over it, with fields enclosed of grain or grass beautifully green — the first fresh robe of spring.— We turned off on a bye road crossing the prairie in another direction but bringing us back to the main road; this road was never made or repaired simply a carriage path over the prairie, but as smooth and hard as a McAdamized road, almost level, not a rock, stone nor even a pebble to be seen, but a fine black loam;— we saw several fine gardens;—the soil is so rich as to require very little labour to cultivate: We gathered a large bouquet of wild flowers growing in a field beside the road,—some splendid kinds that I had never before seen saw some new species of birds too, one with plumage brilliant red: So much for my excursion it is the first time I have been out far enough to see the prairie: it is entirely settled a great deal of wheat is raised: It is said that wheat enough will be raised in Wisconsin this year to supply the entire country if none should be raised elsewhere.

The Plank has been made 7 or 8 miles out; when from three to four, they took ten dolls. per day on it at the rate of $4½ per mile. The Company have now about 80 000 dolls. on hand to pay for lumber but cannot get a supply, which delays the work - they average building a mile in three days: One of our neighbors has contracted to furnish 1000 000 feet boards for $8000. and is over on the Michigan shore with his men. -

The prairie land and almost all the fine fertile region to the West to Rock river is nearly destitute of timber which for purposes of building fencing &c. has to be transported from the lake ports, making business for plank roads - a great disadvantage doubtless to the country, but balanced by various advantages. This place is remarkably healthy, a fine location and very fast increasing: strangers come daily: new merchants mechanics, lawyers & physicians the foreigners are mostly industrious and pious Welsh and Germans: very few Irish. A great fire occurred last week, in which one young man the book keeper just married lost every thing even part of his wife's clothing which was in the store: several pretty heavy losses: the fire department has not been very effective but three new Companies are formed & three new engines sent for. A man living near here has just returned from Warwick where his wife's sister lives he brought me a letter from Aunt Esther: the friends are all as usual. Mr. Clark Jerusha's husband thinks you would do well to go there a railroad is building near I shall have the whole month of Aug. vacation which I suppose will seem rather longer than that month did last year journeying climbing Mt Grace visiting Pilgrimsok &c. Affec'ly Sister Ann -

I expect to have a class in Botany soon. Wish you could transfer and transmit to me your knowledge of it. I don't feel much acquainted with it. Can you give me any directions or explanations that will help me in studying it. Have you seen Wood's Botany? Is it better than Lincoln's? Wish you would describe to me the course I had best take in learning it myself and teaching it. The Mayflower (Trailing Arbutus) is not found in this region but a profusion of small pink flowers, different from any I had seen are found in the fields already. — —

It will really be quite a tax for one to read all this at once — if you have not plenty of time, lay it aside till you have it will be just as well for there is not much in it. ——

Chicago situated on Chicago river at its entrance into the lake on its western shore, in 1830 contained but five or six log houses: it now contains from 20 to 30 thousand has five Temperance hotels, more than twenty periodicals 4 large public and 17 Select schools; - 23 churches; - it has a Medical College, a Marine Hospital, Retreat for the Insane, &c - has been called the "Moral Lighthouse of the West! — - — Please to call on Miss Lizzie Doe, give my love to her and say that I am watching the mails for a letter from her

RACINE
NOV
24
WIS.

10

Mr. F. S. Metcalf.
Civil Engineer.
Goffestown.
N. H.

Sister Annie
Racine
Aug. 23d 1849

Via Goffstown
Sept. 12. 1849
[illegible] N.H.

Racine Aug. 23d '49

Dear brother

I am much obliged for your prompt reply to my long delayed letter: it was very welcome. — my chief pleasure consists in receiving letters and next in answering them. I have been rather neglected of late: — except one from Mother & Joseph. it was nearly two months that I did not receive any; — Lucy even has become remiss, she thinks I believe that her "name is up" so it is not so much matter.

I received a good one from her however a few days ago, but Eliab has not written for a long time: Charles does not pretend to write at all or Almeda scarcely. I supposed that you have had your visit home and returned by this time. I hope you have been or will go — you ought to have that relaxation from business, as well as enjoyment: it would do Joseph good too, since he is not able to go to see you as I hoped. How I feel for him poor fellow: what an affliction to him, just that which is hardest for him to bear. I think favourably of his making trial of the water cure system — with caution — it may prove too harsh for his constitution. Should think Mother or Lucy ought to go with him if he goes away from home — perhaps sufficient trial might be made at home first to ascertain whether it would be beneficial. I wish I could be there but must content myself away another year at least.

I am now enjoying a vacation of five weeks though I can scarcely say enjoying; for I think I have been less happy than in school, — I have always enjoyed so much <u>at home</u>

in vacations that it hardly seems like one, having so much more time and freedom to think, I feel an uneasy sensation a wanting of something - a yearning after home-scenes and home-friends. I spend nearly half of every day with a young lady reviewing her studies preparing to enter at South Hadley this fall - young ladies here must of course go east to complete their education, - this confines me considerable I have [illegible] however one pleasant excursion which I must describe to you. One of the teachers who came with me last fall, a fine young lady from Fitchburg Mass. is located at Wawatosa five miles west of Milwaukie. She came and spent a few days with me then I returned home with her. The trip on the lake was most delightful - we started about three oclock on the Niagara one of the "floating palaces" of the west: - arrived at M. at 5. 25 miles, - expected a man to carry us to Wawatosa but were disappointed he having heard the boat was not expected should have had to pass the night at hotel, had not an old neighbour of my friends from Mass. chanced to come to the same house he offered to carry us and accordingly a handsome carriage was at the door at sunset and we had a fine moonlight ride of five miles on a plank road by the side of Menominie river. The gentleman would receive no pay though it must have been a dollar or two expense; he had travelled much in the west for several years and such acts of generous politeness though rather uncommon I imagine, in the narrow valleys of old Mass. are quite characteristic of the open liberality of Western character.

Business is now very lively here: the wheat begins to pour in, the merchants are busy buying and shipping it. I saw a notice from a Buffalo paper lately that there came on the upper lakes to that city between one noon and the next, 17 steamboats and 70 Schooners with half a million bushels of grain. One man not two miles from here has one enclosed field of wheat containing 160 acres. It is reaped by a machine worked by horses on the trot reaping from 15 to 20 acres in a day. In Michigan, as I was informed by a clergyman from there who preached here a week ago, — they have a machine which at once reaps, thrashes, and puts the wheat into bags! these last are I suppose attached to the machine and taken off as fast as filled. There is much rivalry between the boats of the upper lakes and the railroad company through Michigan, — by the latter route, one can go from here to Buffalo in 34 hours, fare five dollars. A gentleman living next door but one to us, has just returned from New York; — he transacted his business in that city and was at home again in just 4 hours less than six days, from the time he started. What think you of that?

The census of this place has been recently taken showing not quite 4000 inhabitants; there are 15 or 16 physicians though the place has always been distressingly healthy, — an equal number of lawyers I presume though I have not heard their number mentioned; — there is no decent school for boys — only one that I know of and that taught by a Dutchman not quite so tall as I am.

The only school for girls of any importance is ~~that~~ the Seminary, under the care of Mrs. Rev. T. M. Hopkins and her assistant, lately procured from the east; Miss Rich who has the name of being a very good teacher.

I was quite charmed with Wawatosa, it so much resembles [illegible] and towns about there. - the same variety of surface, undulating not hilly, just about as new in appearance, settled by thriving New Englanders with farms already under fine cultivation.

From the window my eye ranged over broad fields of waving corn and still broader fields of wheat just being harvested. My friend too is in the family of a minister a real Yankee: another, a graduate from Andover last fall, a fine fellow, Home Mis. [illegible] there, he preaches in four towns walking ten or fifteen miles every time, just the right kind of man to do good. They made me very welcome - I spent four days very pleasantly, then went to Milwaukie stopped two days at Mr. McDougal's. I had never seen him before though some acquainted with Mrs Mc.D. in Bangor; I did not like him, he is very ultra almost a Garrisonite, I was there over the Sabbath and he talked me tired with his discussions. Milwaukie is some like Bangor in appearance and situation - a river forms the harbour the business part of the city is on the shore on a flat, while the residences are on the rising grounds some parts of the city are considerably elevated above the lake, but in walking round it did not seem near so pleasant a place as Bangor, more rough and unfinished: it is much larger in population I suppose, and a fine place for business: it has one Presbyterian one Congregational and a small free church. a large number of Catholics, and foreigners of all descriptions. There were ten deaths by cholera the two days I was there. at a Norwegian settlement 20 or 30 miles back of Milwaukie there have been 30 deaths. The cholera has prevailed to some extent all around us: at Chicago there have many died.

There have been very few cases here, those few have been confined to the lower class whose habits are filthy & bad, and to the intemperate. It has been very healthy all the season and the most delightful weather I ever experienced: — frequent showers, pure invigorating air, cool and balmy breezes; vegetation looks finely, Racine is a lovely spot, the numerous large oak trees with their deep rich foliage the many pretty gardens luxuriant with beautiful flowers and shrubbery, the fine shade trees particularly locusts and weeping willows planted around the neat dwellings, above all the lake, in view from almost every part, the placid mirror of the calm blue skies above, with its busy craft, plying up and down at all hours, form an image of peaceful happiness beautiful indeed, but marred alas, by the strifes and passions of men: peaceful as it seems, there has been a succession of exciting events here for some time past. A young lady, a stranger was taken from the boat sick she was from Cincinnati [illegible] died and two physicians, under a late [illegible], procured a legal warrant disinterred and dissected the body. — Another young lady from Chicago came to the hotel took a room, soon became alarmingly ill, confessed to having taken poison; it was too late to save her. she brought her shroud ready made and fifty dolls in money: She had been betrayed and deserted by one to whom she was engaged. Mr H. attended her funeral. An honourable noble-minded man with whom I have become acquainted and like much, — kindly consented to assist a poor man with a large family lately from Mass. (a singing teacher) by hiring money in his own name and securing a small place for him, and was so much outraged by mean and insulting suspicions of his honesty on the part of the singing master that in his indignation he got a deed and presented him the property, 2 or 300 dolls. telling him never to darken his doors again. the poor little soul meekly took the deed and walked away; both are professors of religion: —

I am glad you are so much more pleasantly situated than last winter; very glad that you have at least one companionable associate. I have felt somewhat troubled about you in that respect. I believe no one can be absolutely without refined and cultivated companions without suffering in mind and manners.

Have you any female society agreeable, refined, and improving? If you have not, you ought to set about procuring it without delay. Have you any female correspondents now out of your own family? and, finally, is there any image enshrined in the inner chamber of your soul leading you to contemplate the propriety of making some "demonstrations"? If so I wish to be frankly and speedily informed.

Your ideas respecting the influence of the love of nature upon the feelings and character, I fully agree with; I believe it tends to soften and refine the feelings, make one more kindly disposed towards other humanities, to yield a kindly drop of sympathy instead of steeling the man in cold indifference; the feelings make the character; — "even Truth is not fully comprehended until felt; like the perceptions of beauty which appeals to the ~~[illegible]~~ responses of the inward sensibilities" A deep moral sensibility, a natural love of the beautiful the good and the infinite, allies the soul to the spiritual world, — the great primal truths shine out upon them like the stars; sophistry may throw a mist over them as addressed to the intellect, but they look within and the clear images of heaven's light come twinkling up from the depths of their moral consciousness." "There are human souls over whom their immortality broods like the day, — a presence not to be put by." These thoughts from the Biblical Repository came into my mind in connection with the subject of the influence of the love of nature or the love of the beautiful, so I thought I would write them to you,

The family of your assistant Everett is known to Mrs. Hotchkiss [?] who has I believe resided in Windsor - - -

I write you such long letters that you may justly congratulate yourself that you hear them no oftener. Sister Anna [?] —

Joseph has a soul keenly alive to such impressions, but how has he suffered corroding care to shut out [illegible] or eat up every green thing; I know he has been peculiarly situated & I do not blame him but I lament the dwarfing [?] the blighting effects of the last three years of his life.

Business is now very lively here; the wheat begins to pour in, the merchants are busy buying and shipping it. I saw a notice from a Buffalo paper lately that there came on the upper lakes to that city between one noon and the next 17 steamboats and 70 schooners with half a million bushels of grain. One man not two miles from here has one enclosed field of wheat containing 160 acres. It is reaped by a machine worked by horses on the trot reaping from 15 [to] 20 acres in a day. In Michigan, as I was informed by a clergyman from there who preached here a week ago,—they have a machine which at once reaps, thrashes, and puts the wheat into bags! these last are I suppose attached to the machine and taken off as fast as filled. There is much rivalry between the boats of the upper lakes and the railroad company through Michigan,—by the latter route, one can go from here to Buffalo in 34 hours, fare five dollars. A gentleman living next door but one to us, has just returned from New York;—he transacted his business in that city and was at home again in just 4 hours less, than six days, from the time he started. What think you of that?

The census of this place has been recently taken showing not quite 4000 inhabitants; there are 15 or 16 physicians though the place has always been distressingly healthy,—an equal number of lawyers I presume though I have not heard their number mentioned;—there is no decent school for boys—only one that I know of and that taught by a Dutchman not quite so tall as I am. The only school for girls of any importance is ~~that~~ the Seminary, under the care of Mrs. Rev T. M. Hopkins and her assistant, lately procured from the east; Miss Rich who has the name of being a very good teacher.

Racine Nov. 17th '49.

Dear Brother

Your letter of 16 ~~Oct.~~ Sept. reached me some little time ago, and was very interesting to me, your descriptions of that mountain scenery carried my imagination & led me almost to envy your happiness in rambling amid and around the valleys, lakes, mountains and rocks — those scenes of nature in which I take much delight.

I rejoice in your success and progress in your profession, the delight you take in it, it must yield more true satisfaction to the mind than measuring goods behind a counter or calculation of stocks — I believe it has an elevating, a salutary effect upon the mind, to be conversant with the grand, the peaceful, the pure scenes of Nature: the book of God! I suppose too, the mental labour connected with your business is of a kind to discipline the intellect, without corroding or narrowing the mind, but it seems to me you will be in danger of losing sight of your social obligations; wherever you are, you feel yourself merely a sojourner, not a fixed inhabitant ~~— not~~ a member of a particular community bound with it, in character and interests, consequently there will be less sense of personal responsibility — the great defect in society at the West, and indeed too deficient every where. Is there not an evil here? Will you not have less opportunity, if not less disposition to make the influence of a Christian felt over the minds of your fellow men? or is it balanced by some peculiar facilities

...which he got all ready to come west — was prevented by the death of Mr. Shepherd; I thought it was with the ... who is spending the winter at Portland.

for usefulness arising from the absence of clashing interests or the play of selfish motives in your intercourse with others? — This has become such a hurrying, jostling, restless, mad sort of a world, that nobody has time or chance to sit down and consider, how best to serve God and do good to men. ---

I am sorry your visit home was so much shortened, hoped you would be able to spend two or three weeks, on Joseph's account as well as for your own sake and the rest of the family. Lucy and Samuel sent me not long ago, a good letter of ten pages, giving me an account of their excursion to Iron Mountain, of the baby's sickness and death and various particulars all interesting, - Saml, in postscript begged me to excuse the shortness of the letter as he was in haste to go to the P.O. with it. I have more recently received a letter from Mother, dated the day Joseph started for Waterford. I feel very anxious to hear from him — Mother was troubled about his going, feared the fatigue would occasion a fit of sickness. It seems as if I could not have it so, that he has permanently lost the use of his limbs, — I have felt almost certain that his good constitution would after a time, triumph over the injuries it had sustained, but Mother writes discouragingly: what is your opinion?

How hard it is for him - the very thing that to him, is more severely trying than any thing else could be! May he be supported! - if he can but regain his health so as

to be able to devote himself to literary pursuits, to read, study and write he might in this way be able to employ himself usefully and happily, otherwise there must be great danger that the mind will prey upon itself, lose its healthy, active tone, if not its power.

How little we know, or can calculate upon the future, what trials are in store for us:– we only know that sooner or later disappointment and suffering must be our portion for in no other way will we learn that 'this is not our rest', earth must be made a desert to us ere we cease our expectations from it and seek for the pure fountain in which are no bitter waters. Various things during the last few months have contributed to make me feel that this is a world of change:– sad indeed are Joseph's altered prospects:— even here, where in my obscurity, it would seem as if I could be little affected by events transpiring around me. I feel the influence of the imperceptible shifting of circumstances, bringing in its train, change in my experience. There are conflicting views, discordant feelings, the spirit of peace and concord does not reign here, not even in the church of God. There are troubles in relation to Mr Hopkins which have much excited my sympathy, and doubtless I shall share to some extent in their effects. But I believe I am writing in a very gloomy strain. I feel rather sad to night, am sometimes lonely, in truth I have not much companionship here, I mean in the family; I have become acquainted with many interesting people whose society I value, but after all it must be the home

I am on my part, much obliged to you for your efforts to have the house finished at Mrs.
it is needed I do not see how the family can be comfortable the coming winter without

the family, that makes our happiness: it is there we want to look to satisfy the demands of our social nature, and if not congenial, or unsympathizing the lack is felt. yet I do not in the least complain — I am pleasantly situated meet with kindness, attention beyond what I expected. nevertheless I am a stranger. can talk to no one of my dear friends that I love so well, for nobody knows nor takes any interest in them, and you have the same experience

Joseph has so far irrecoverably lost his health, marred his prospects and usefulness for life perhaps, by disregarding the physical laws of his being, — overtasking the mind & body. do be careful my dear brother not to do in like manner, — no one need or ought do more than can be done consistently with sufficient rest and sleep and with proper guard against inclemencies of the weather & hardships that try the constitution of every name. Charles has injured himself: his health is not, never again will be, probably firm as it might have been, with his constitution, to old age had he not repeatedly suffered himself by force of circumstances — just as Joseph has — by hardship or overtasking to trifle with the laws of health.

We have had truly delightful weather all the fall, serene skies, mild balmy air, but nature has put on a sombre aspect: — the oak foliage so rich and beautiful in summer, turns to a dull ~~red~~ dark brown, remaining long on the trees, which ~~give~~ makes a dreary appearance compared with the brilliant many-coloured hues of the New England maple.

Do you correspond with any of the Warwick friends?

Wisconsin has the largest school fund of any state in the Union; arising in part from government lands given by Virginia — the sixteenth square mile of every township of 36 square miles is appropriated for schools, but by a ~~vote~~ law of the state, it is all in the hands of the state to be apportioned by them: I suppose this is equitable, since this school section is liable to be a marsh or other unproductive land; in the case of Southport ten miles from this, it is actually all in the lake, of course valueless: in this place one third is in the lake, the remaining two thirds comprises the finest part of the city, and is valued by commissioners appointed by the state at $88000. If this sum had been left at the disposal of the town literary Institutions might abound of every grade. I believe public schools are supported generally about as in Maine or Mass, but poorer teachers and more backward schools: but in this place on account of some dissatisfaction and dispute relative to the valuation of school lands, the people have been very remiss, no public schools have been established until now some efforts are making to do it.

Southport the place above named has an excellent building, a flourishing school of six hundred pupils, with

several competent teachers from Mass. The higher branches taught. their school lands being at the bottom of the lake they depend upon their own efforts and consequently are prosperous. This is a long story, will not interest you I hardly know why I have written it. The state of society here is unsettled, restless, variable and shifting enough, settled as it is by a superior class of New Englanders to a great extent, Minnesota must be less preferable in every point of view. The land west to Mississippi is extremely fertile with great variety of surface — wheat enough raised in Wisconsin this year to supply the whole country with bread: — it is like a great garden so rich and favorable a soil for cultivation — one disadvantage not well timbered; valuable mines in the southwest: — plenty of water communication: flourishing towns and villages are springing up all around. A short time ago Milwaukie and Bangor were on a level, now probably Bangor has one third less inhabitants than the former.

The school is very much as usual, we shall have an examination about Christmas: I have a class in French this term. My engagement lasts till next Aug. It is probable I shall not stay here after, for teachers enough are ready to step in who can instruct in branches in which I am deficient

[illegible] your sister Anna

[illegible] & yours [illegible]

[illegible] We ought to win them by love and kindness. — I hope you will overlook all the infirmities of this epistle and be able to make it intelligible. I have written it while I was baking, getting dinner, washing dishes, mending pantaloons besides doing sundry other unmentionables and no wonder it is done with an unsteady hand as well as with a poor pen —

your affect cousin Anna

Miss Lucy H. Metcalf
Present

This is not a very elegant looking sheet but next time I will do better. —

I attend singing school and ~~[illegible]~~ Glee class two eves in a week, expect to be able to teach vocal music ere long!
Give my love to Mother, Charles Joseph, Albina little Charlie and any body else that wants it.

Racine

Dear brother 1850

I was very glad to receive your letter of Feb. 21st. It seems quite good to have ~~it~~, letters from you, they having been rather few and far between of late. I just mean to scribble a few words to you to send with my letter to Almeda, have but an hour to write, so shall say just what comes into my head first. I am glad you are at home again with Mother, very glad the rooms are finished, and very glad indeed you are trying Homoeopathy. Now as to your estimate, ideas of things, I partly agree with you, partly not. That I should look back, and think upon "Maine sinners" is quite natural, but that I am not quite tolerably happy, is not true. —

Mr. & Mrs. H. are good sort of people: she is a good straight-forward, matter-of fact body who has kept school a little too long, and is a little circumscribed in her views of some things at large. He is really kind hearted and not lacking in liberality, but moved much by the impulse of the moment. She was unwilling to give me a note when we settled in Jan. because she had received but a small part of her tuition though I thought she ought to because more than a year had passed therefore my salary was due. After she got me the money, Mr. H. offered to give me a note so as to pay where he was owing: but I thought best not to, told him my brother had written that he would invest it for me — though I suppose I could have had

10 per cent; he is now paying 12 on hired money, which is a common interest here. Mr. H. does not manage right or else it is a difficult matter to get pay for school - perhaps both. They now owe me about 60, which they will assuredly pay me sometime but I know not when; I am convinced I might be more pleasantly situated as a teacher, and mean to be at soon as Providence shall open the way. My chief discomfort at present, arises from an inmate of the family, in capacity of household manager and home governess, but no place is without its little vexations. I know your philosophy of life is stern &c. and perhaps you are in the main correct in your views, and perchance think as well of your fellow men as I do. I give you credit for much more experience than I though considerably younger and though I have served something of an apprenticeship at that school. I think it is not best for me to return at present, unless my help is needed, because I ought to earn money; but I think you rather vilify Milo or at least, Cedar Grove; (the former place I care little for) I think I should be happy (so to speak) there, if I had good and sufficient employment and did not feel it duty to be elsewhere, I do want to be there this coming summer very much. I hope the house will be completely finished, I shall claim for my room that north bedroom that I have occupied when there, after Albina's chamber is finished.

I have scarcely read any thing since I have been here, no [illegible], that a little with Miss H. once in a while; he is the only one in the family with whom I have much companionship.
The children are of hot-bed growth, like many others at the present day. Your Sister C. [illegible]

Racine March 19th [illegible]

Dear Brother

Your last is before me, and I am quite surprised to see that the [illegible] so long ago as last [illegible]. [illegible] it is that three months have passed away so quickly. I [illegible] answering yours, because I happened just then to owe letters to all the folks, which I wrote one after another, as I could find time without taking evening [illegible] much, because light is scarce then, at this place

Three weeks ago I received a letter from Mother and Lucy with your signature [illegible] thereto. I was very glad to hear the news it contained — Lucy was good to write me before receiving mine which however was then on its way, also one to Mother and Joseph, one to Samuel, and a week later one to Eliza containing a draft for 50 dols. for him to [illegible] out [illegible] [illegible]. You [illegible] [illegible] me negligent in writing, but the truth is, a long letter to Mother & Joseph sent last fall, later never reached them. I waited for an answer to it longer than I ought perhaps, commencing at Joseph's [illegible].

My last to Mother reached there two or three weeks before the [illegible] [illegible] I received her answer, and a good long one from Joseph [illegible] the beginning he [illegible] it would be [illegible] because I [illegible] him [illegible] long [illegible] [illegible] — his [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] full of good [illegible]: He [illegible] me not to go home at present, [illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] terms, as residents, [illegible]? — he [illegible] not [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] friends [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] with the other [illegible] [illegible]? — [illegible] [illegible] one who [illegible] no better prospect, than to pass his life [illegible] the [illegible] part of it in [illegible], no society, no preaching, [illegible] no anything, [illegible] a country wide [illegible] [illegible] immorality?

I know not but his remarks are just [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] but I [illegible] not entirely agree with him. I think I should be very happy at home [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] if I possessed the means to live there in comfort and that is the end I have in view in staying away among indifferent strangers, I wish to lay by money enough to supply my few wants, then I can make myself useful and [illegible] happy at home, especially should [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], I shall be needed there, and how much pleasanter being with friends, and ministering to the comfort of those I love — the greatest happiness life affords, — than eating the bread of strangers. Can you inform me of Joseph's appearance feelings, whether he is anxious for the future, all about him you can and what you think of his case. Almeda in a recent letter expresses her opinion that there is no hope, that he must become [illegible] [illegible]. If there is a rupture of the nerves [illegible] [illegible] proceeding from the spinal column [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] medicine can reach his case [illegible]

I have not realized [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] as if I could not [illegible] it so [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] any affliction at [illegible] to be compared with it, but [illegible] is a [illegible] [illegible] in thinking that his [illegible] are not [illegible]

be affected as in the case of palsy because the injury [illegible] evidently to be only in the nerves of motion: he does not suffer much pain and that is favourable. I have known one or two instances of persons entirely losing the use of their limbs from inflammatory rheumatism attended with the most intense agony – the injury in that case must be to a different set of nerves. How pleasant it must have been for you to be all together at Lucy's – I am glad she has such a pleasant convenient house: – she seems at present to have every thing she could desire in respect to her circumstances. May her spirit be, by Divine grace kept humble, tender and loving as it has in time past eminently been. Outward ease and prosperity we have reason to think is a ~~much more~~ trying ordeal for the human soul. I do not want any of my brothers or sisters to be really rich, for I fear it would make them cold hearted and selfish: but I do wish our brother Charles was more easy in his circumstances and it seems as if he might be; – he always seems to be struggling with obstacles, careworn, prevented by sordid care from acting out the better and happier impulses of his nature.

Almeda's letter informs me that Lucy has been anxious a long time, now indulges some hope and that Lizzy's attention is much upon the subject of religion: – there are revivals all around them; – may Milo not be passed over: as Lucy says, it has been dark there a long time. My health never was better than since I have been at the West; I have some expectation that Providence has opened a path for in another direction, promising greater ease & more pay; but ~~[illegible]~~ it is not certain yet that I can have the chance therefore will not write particulars. My salary here, is $ 130. per year besides board. About 60 dolls are due me now besides the 50 I sent to [illegible]. Sister [illegible]

RACINE
MAR
22
WIS.

T. H. Metcalf.
Civil Engineer
~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~
Bangor Maine

E. Anne Rich Racine Wis.
March 22d 1851

[illegible], April 3. 1851

Sister Anne   Racine Wisconsin

Aug. 14. 1850

Racine Aug. 14th 1850.

Dear brother Isaac

A long due and long meditated letter to you I have at last commenced, thought I have nothing to write of much interest or importance: - the life of a teacher is a monotonous one - the record of one week is the history of the next. - the same round of duties, labours, petty vexations and enjoyments, too of the grateful relief from the cares of school, of the pleasant summer evening and cool bright mornings.

I have never experienced such a long succession of hot, oppressively hot weather as this summer, the Thermometer has ranged from 80 to 96 in the shade, most of the time during the last six weeks: - and I in school, plodding through from day to day as I can, the whole charge devolves on me this term, small and large in the same room which makes it more laborious. Mrs. H. was intending to go 'East' a month ago but Miss A. the agreeable housekeeper of whom I have spoken in some of my letters, has been confined to her bed the last six weeks: she will not probably recover. My experience in relation to her has given me a lesson on the danger of indulging strong prejudices, lest they acquire such influence as to blight all the better feelings. How easy for the mind to become the slave to a ruling passion or strongly marked trait of character!

Have I directed his letter right, or should I have put on Civil or Chief Engineer &c. &c.?

[illegible], [illegible], [illegible] Sept. 10. 1850.

I received a good letter from you — I am ashamed to look at the date to see how long since. — I did not suppose your sojourn in Ills would be long as you mentioned an offer from New Brunswick, so I deferred answering your letter until I should hear, again, then a period of three months elapsed without a single letter from any of you.

I have within a few weeks had two letters from Lucy and one from you and Mother jointly. I have ~~heard~~ nothing from Joseph's pen since last winter — suppose he is too weak or it fatigues him too much to use his hands. Poor dear Joseph, so ambitious, so capable, so independent, how can he bear up under his deep affliction!

How much dependence we all placed upon him.

I am thankful that you could be with him so long, there seems a Merciful Providence in it; nothing could contribute more to his happiness — to keeping his mind in good tone, and such a comfort to Mother too. How I should like to have been there too, — all my feelings, sympathies, I must while here, keep folded up; like the petals of a flower in the night —— yet I like the people here much, merely as Society; — common acquaintances, any one must feel isolated without any relatives or near friends about them. I have been reading Shakespeare of late and enjoy it much, especially Lear and Hamlet though there are objectionable sentiments as well as phrases, yet there is so much of sound sense and wisdom in his writings that they can not be read without improvement; — I have been astonished to find how many of the standard, choice expressions, in common use

-almost like household words are quotations from Shakespeare - many familiar gems of thought, I find ~~[illegible]~~ of which I knew not the origin before. The character of Cordelia in Lear is most perfect, in womanly qualities yet so natural and unpretending.

The wheat crops in this region are very fine; it is now the height of harvest I should like to see reaping performed by their famous reaping & threshing machines - a few days ago an order was sent to a man in Michigan for flour, the order reached him at 4 P.M. he set his men at work for one hour, reaped, threshed, and floured 60 bushels, sent it off by cars, and the next day it was on the table in Detroit! I feel very desirous of seeing more of the West before I return but it may not be in my power. I think a teacher would find more difficulty in obtaining good situations here than at the East, owing in part to the indifference of the subject of education, and partly to the fact that every body's sister aunt or cousin comes out West to teach, whether qualified or not. If circumstances prove favourable, I think I shall stay here through the winter for the sake solely of earning a little more money have written to Elias to come west. West, look around, go home with me if I go, perhaps stay the winter if he feels inclined - though it might be some loss of time to him it might be well worth while for him. He and Samuel might make themselves princes in wealth if once established in business here, in some of these flourishing infant cities; it seems Samuel has been out of business this summer which seems a pity for one so capable. You have been highly favored in that respect, and in having so good salary. A young Graduate of Middlebury College came here and opened a school last spring, has persevered until

few weeks since with six pupils for the greatest number part of the time but three. I wonder being a man, he don't go somewhere else, or do something else.

Is there "a bright particular star" somewhere in New Hamshire; newly discovered? If so will you not favor me with its name and magnitude? Also its probable locality and when will be the best time to take observations?

Did you ever hear of the Monk of La Trappe. Mr Lehea[?] a converted Catholic - he was here a while since, the Catholics told the Mayor they would make disturbance if he lectured so he prudently closed the doors of the Court House which he had engaged: was it not a courageous and noble course worthy of the free country we live in? The Catholics are numerous here - the Mayor wanted to secure their votes but the citizens are quite indignant about it

The Cholera is raging at Chicago 40 or 50 deaths daily it has also made its appearance ten miles south of us but as yet there have been no cases here but very few last season. This little city by the late census contains 5,600 inhabitants, is in a flourishing condition, is remarkably clean and neat in its appearance and as a place of residence pleasant and healthy. There are two lines of Telegraph plenty of merchants lawyers, physicians and preachers and teachers too, three young ladies to my knowledge are now waiting to obtain situations besides two or three gentleman teachers in the same predicament.

If I could but teach Algebra, I could have a <u>good</u> situation here another year; but as another teacher must be hired at least to take that Class, Mrs. H. if she wants me another year will not be able to give the compensation I ought to receive for I am qualified to instruct in more branches than any one teacher has time to teach ~~at~~ than would be required in Institutions where there are distinct departments.

Aff'ly Sister Ann

Please Write soon

I wish you and Joseph could transfer to me some of your knowledge of Botany, you could spare same and I need it. I was foolish not to make myself acquainted with Algebra & Botany when it was in my power: it is now too exhausting to study much while teaching.

Mrs Phila

March 14 1851

[illegible] March 14th 1851.

Dear brother Isaac

For some weeks I have [illegible] [illegible] a longing expectation [illegible] that some one of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], from [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] my good eyes [illegible] from you but being [illegible], I [illegible] I send to [illegible] the [illegible].

If you [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to me too? I would be most happy to obtain in the eye of the mind, a passing glimpse of the present state and welfare of that 'heart of homeliness' - the alone place — albeit a 'little' smoky — called Cedar'grove alias home, with all its inhabitants both small and great as well as [illegible] [illegible] good neighbours.

I enjoy Gilfillan exceedingly, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] i.e. [illegible] because he [illegible] he must be lazy or shallow, and not able to enjoy or appreciate the rich variety of ideas brought often before the mind of me.

I do not have access to much literature that [illegible] here. Books are plenty of a common kind but 'we' are a little fastidious in respect to reading as well as company you are not unaware I opine that "all we" are said to be a little 'recherché'. The Academy library contains many valuable books — I have "Chalmers Theology" out now, for Sunday reading, but it is important for me, who can read but sparingly, to have the most available as well as most improving and elevating to the taste and judgment — "in short" to keep up with the times. —

As yourself professes to be somewhat 'au fait' in regard to current literature, will you have the kindness to give me a list of some of the desirable late works? then if I chance to be conversing with literary characters I can allude to, inquire about, perhaps gain access to them. — even to know the titles to some books is an advantage sometimes. —

Do you know any thing of "History of Spanish literature" by Tickner or perhaps he is merely the publisher.

What kind of a book is Prof. Goodwin's Truth and beauty, letters or something of Goethe?

Is Southey's poems, or his [illegible]

wonderful! Is Wilson's Criticks of the N. [illegible] [illegible] Readable? Another book I have just [illegible] at [illegible] an author of whom I know nothing,— [illegible] [illegible]ed 'Living American Writers' by Hontre.

It seems to me that a large proportion of the readable books published in this country are from the pens of [illegible] [illegible] and freethinkers not to say infidels.

Have you seen the lecture of Henry James in the Tribune, highly eulogised by the editor, in which he says, "he hates the current Christianism as he does the obscene jaws of hell, that rather it were better that the name of God were blotted from off the face of the earth, and the sacred heart of humanity were alone held in reverence!!

What kind of a paper to be taken by Christians into a Christian family!

March 16th I wrote Eliab some items upon the [illegible] which excite so much interest hereabouts, [illegible] it will be making him do penance to read it. It would better interest you; the task of the engineer must be somewhat different here from that among the hills of New Hampshire:— the [illegible] [illegible] said is so level almost [illegible] the whole distance that

not more than two feet elevation or de-
pression: for forty miles the two tracks are
side by side, the two companies [illegible]
which forms in some [illegible] a [illegible]
of way and is great advantage over [illegible]
farming appears to be rather [illegible]
[illegible] business in this region: I heard Mr. [illegible] say
that a farmer [illegible] 1800 dolls. clear profit,
last year receiving 1600 in money: another
a nephew of Gov. Pattison – a bachelor of [illegible]-
ing respectability had eight hundred [illegible]
[illegible] his farm [illegible] of those valuable implemen[illegible]
[illegible] his coat being soiled with the plowline
[illegible] three hundred and forty [illegible]

Has not your friend [illegible] somewhere in
[illegible]? If you do not expect at present [illegible]
[illegible] on the [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] in the way of your possessions!

A warm gentle rain has been falling since
last night. I heard the birds singing cheerily
this morning, some small boats have commen-
ced running on the lake and it seems quite
like a spring day. Affectionately
[illegible]

"your letter of [illegible] finest [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] out [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible] every respect, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], arguments in [illegible] [illegible] by the [illegible] of the [illegible], [illegible] deep [illegible] clear. [illegible] you [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] four weeks ago [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] your [illegible] [illegible] they were [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] —[illegible] they did not [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], but [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] met with [illegible] if not [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] you are not in the direct [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] young [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in Arkansas, and for the last [illegible] months not a letter received [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] they wrote every **week**, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible] truly glad to get your [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] you [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] respects, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] you [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]; why did you not write [illegible] [illegible] particu[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] business, [illegible] [illegible] how laborious &c.—all the information you give, is comprised in the short sentence "my business extends fifty miles north of this place": [illegible] [illegible] would be much [illegible]isfaction [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

It is three weeks since I left Westfield. My school closed just [illegible], [illegible]ious: examination passed off well. Mr. Pilsbury, the Principal, has resigned, but I believe I mentioned about this in my last. One of the [illegible] wished a place for a relative who could also be in his fam[illegible]. I don't know how it will affect me, — I do not feel my posi[tion] [illegible] stable there is so much self-interest, divided feeling & counter workings in these small places. Your friend Argyle [illegible], is sick, was confined to the house a month with a severe attack of pleurisy, with a bad cough, could sit up but little for two or three weeks, - is now better but still has a cough with some symptoms of consumption to which disease his family are subject. - Mariette wrote me that he is now able to ride to the Harbour, tannery, &c.

Just before I left, I received a letter from Lucy stating that mother was there and herself in improved health, Sam'l very busy, and Elial decided upon leaving Brown's: he has not written me lately. I hope letters from them have by [this] time reached you. Lizzie Doe has written to me here, she is homesick; finds things different from her anticipations: her brother has been sick is not very prosperous in circumstances [illegible] [illegible] efficient: she is not pleasantly situated. She is in Providence, [illegible] a little back from the [illegible] river. If you can be sure of its safe conveyance, had you not better send that book to her by mail [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

in [illegible] Springfield: I am sorry that I did not keep it for probably she will return next spring if not this fall, most like-ly by way of Westfield. Dont run any risk of its being lost how-ever, better for you to keep it a year.

[illegible] is [illegible] thriving [illegible] place, of about ten thousand people including Putnam just across the river: yet it has a 'right' pleasant aspect, the build-dings look timeworn yet substantial, the streets well shaded mostly with trees of [illegible] and the beautiful Catalpa. — there are more, richer, and better filled stores than in Bangor. one truly beautiful fountain in design and workmanship is constantly playing before a handsome private residence on Main Street. The Muskingum is a charming river seeming to me about a third larger than Piscataquis: it curves grace-fully around the city on the western side: steamboats meet the canal from the north connecting with the Ohio at Marietta.

The country around in every direction is fine indeed. two or three prominent hills quite near covered with handsome residences and groves add much to the beauty of the scenery. — the groves all around command my admiring gaze, — the immense trees so tall and straight of oak hickory and elm chiefly, — not an evergreen to be seen. — while the ground beneath is as level and smooth as a grass plat before a door. The people seem very social: I have received much

here for the people to enjoy the evening out of doors, or sitting on the steps or

much attention and have enjoyed my visit much. Cousin Lucy is teaching here, has a pleasant situation with good wages: she seems to be quite a favourite, is particularly at[illegible] to the gentleman; her acquaintances are of a high stamp as to wealth and respectability. I like her much. Abby (Mrs. [illegible] Haldeman) has recently married here: her husband is getting practice he is a descendant of Penn. [illegible] - a Methodist as is also Abby: very good people. he has education but not intelligence or liberality of views: they are rather pr[illegible] one circle. Cousin [illegible] Clark is really a noble woman, she has a family of eight children five of them Mr. Clark's by a former wife an excellent mother she is: I have enjoyed much from renewing my acquaintance with [illegible]. we had not met for about [illegible] years. Lucy boards with her. Mr. Clark is a sensible shrewd, good common man, the maker of his own fortunes, and a wealthy man I expect, but making no display of it. at present his business is in a lumber yard. He owns some farms in the country besides a good house in which he lives. he is about building a handsome house on a farm one mile from the city on this farm, as is the case with most of the land here every acre on an average, yields coal to the value of eight hundred dollars, in addition to the rich soil for cultivation: I was not aware before coming here that all this region abounds in coal: it is the bituminous causes much smoke and an unpleasant gas which the smoke gives the [illegible] its [illegible] appearance

The weather has been excessively warm since my stay here; the [illegible] first [illegible] filled with coal smoke and dust; but the evenings are delightful; it is the custom

Westfield Aug. 24th /[illegible]

Dear brother Isaac

Yours of Aug 4th has been duly rec'd also one your first from your present abode came while I was at Janesville and which I answered from that place directing to the care of Mr. Hawkins for so I read the directions in yours, Eliab made the same mistake sending two or three letters the care of the above named gentleman, who I fear will not take much pains to forward them to you! Eliab has been with me since last Friday. and a fine time we have had I persuaded him to stay over the sabbath he consented on condition of having something to do which I suppose was only [illegible] to assist him in packing his books &c. he has been unable to do from ill health: he has been sick ever since the last of June, not well enough to ride round and attend to his business matters, did too much was taken down again last week with fever, pain in the side and chills, he has a settled cough and all his friends think there is great danger of consumption.

I am recommending him to go to a water cure establishment as soon as he is well enough thinking that he may be in a safe place away from business. Eliab myself and two ~~other~~ young ladies went yesterday to Chautauqua a wild romantic spot two miles up the creek which I told you of where [illegible] and wishes you to visit. The descent is perpendicular on one side, sloping on the other, and forming a ridge nearly across, — is about 85 feet. the width of the gulf below about 30 rods running above and below the ridge, two, or only circular basins, in which reach the small

space occupied by the shallow stream, - large trees are growing. We enjoyed the excursion much. I a[m] however to day paying the usual penalty of overfatigue by heavy aching limbs — a small price for so much pleasure

We wonder much that no letters have been rec'd by you yet, — there must be great remissness in the management of mails in that region; — two or three letters have been directed to Springfield to you. Have you thought [to] send to him, alias Mr. Greenleaf, and request him to inquire for you?

I had a delightful visit at Janesville a pleasant journey back and have been teaching two weeks on the new term. We have a new Principal also an assistant gentleman — a young man of 22 who takes the Mathematical department, quite to my relief; I have above fifty in [my] room, 18 or 20 of them in the Teacher's Class — this Academy has a Normal department connected with it every fall term. — The school is pleasant but furnishes me plenty to do. I intend going to a boarding place nearer, in two or three weeks.

I received a letter from Lucy a few days since, - not much news however, - her own health is not quite as good as when she wrote last before; Mother is still there, did not speak of returning to Milo: It appears from Lucy's account, that Sarah Harlow considers herself a personage of much consequence, quite too much to bestow much attention on one so insignificant as Mrs. Dunbar, I think Sarah's character must have undergone some change since her pupilage at South Hadley and not a favorable

chidinge either: - but Lucy does not need her society or notice and I hope she will be able to convince her of the fact. I wish Sam'l Furber had one of the good berths in this region to make a fortune and live easy, which his abilities in the requisites for business would certainly ensure him when known: he will never I fear be appreciated in Bangor that <u>little</u> spot of overweening, overbearing, pretended aristocracy.

Lizzie Doe has written me several times, she has been very home sick, has suffered from musquitoes fleas, heat, and all sorts of discomforts, is not only entirely destitute of the garniture and accompaniments, but even of the least realities of civilization as respects comforts and conveniences, but says she has now a fair share of happiness all along. As to you you make no pretension of course to living in a civilized land, Your business is I suppose a lucrative one and subjects one to as few vexations and annoyances as any perhaps, but the sacrifice, by one calculated to appreciate them, - of all the comforts and refinements of social life as a citizen and <u>member</u> of a community, - still more, of all the means of gaining and imparting <u>good</u>, is no small sacrifice, ought to be well remunerated, - and not only this but it seems to me that an educated man so circumstanced must possess uncommon activity, elasticity of mind and elevation of purpose to maintain <u>his</u> ground; spiritually and socially, as well as intellectually especially when occupied so much in [illegible] ... I believe it to be the

duty of *every* person to take a portion of each day for their own particular improvement in knowledge, ~~and~~ as well as true wisdom. However difficult it may seem day by day to spare the time, yet, if done fixedly, after a few years have passed it will be found that while no no serious injury has accrued in the way of business, — it will make a marked difference in the man.—

I think you write to me in rather too much hurry you do not tell enough about yourself — my greatest fear about you is that you will not be careful about exposures and will work too much - you have no right to *labour* much that is the province of the underling and should not be usurped by one in your station. — —

Mr. Hopkins was here from Racine last week, asked me to go there and teach again but I *think* I shall not - when I leave here I mean to go home — —

Write soon and particularly

Affec'ly

Sister Anna

Ans. Westfield N.Y.
Sept. 22. 1851

Jonesboro, Oct. 7. 1851

Westfield Sept. 22 51

My dear brother

This is the fourth letter I have written you since you left here last June, one of which it seems you had received when you last wrote me.

My last was written when Eliza was here. - after meeting Sabbath, we two alone got together up in the front chamber at Mr. Rumsey's, wrote each a long letter to you in one envelope, which I cannot but believe you have received ere this. Eliza also wrote to Mr. Greenleaf to forward letters to you should any be there as several were directed to Springfield. Your last, partly to E. partly to myself, came the day after she left - about four weeks ago. I have been waiting and hoping to hear from you again now you have begun to get letters I hope they will all come to hand, and that you will write constantly and particularly of your health, your situation in every respect. I feel a constant fear that you will be attacked by the fever of that country. We cannot but feel more anxiety all of us about you in consequence of the climate and the lack of easy and regular means of communication with you in that out-of-the-world place. It is much better that you should fail in receiving letters from us than for us not to hear from you, if obstruction needs be, but I trust you will now receive letters regularly.

I received a letter from Mother a week since: Samuel and Lucy had just left for Deer Isle an excursion on account of Samuel's health which had not been good for some weeks: Mother wrote in rather a discouraging tone of Lucy's health and Samuel's prospects but she is apt sometimes to feel much disheartened. I tell her she is prone to look on the dark side - she says she looks at facts. Time, however may bring a different state of things and I think we ought to hope the best and trust in

the merciful dealings of our Heavenly Father "who doeth all things well", and who as our past experience can testify, has been ever better to us than our fears, often better than our hopes.

My last letter from Lucy was dated Aug. 9th: She mentioned riding to Mount Hope, a few days before, making several calls on her return; that Dr. Rich had been consulted about her weak back and limbs: Mother writes that he and Dr. McRuer think the nerves of the spine affected: I want she should try the water cure faithfully and not medicine: I am anxiously expecting a letter from Lucy to hear all the particulars respecting her own as well as Samuel's health. — Had a good long letter from Almeda two or three weeks since - the first she has written me since I left - mine last winter to Charles and Albina, still remains unanswered. A. wrote that several at Milo have recently united with the church, among them her Lucy; that Mr. Partridge was acceptable; and some steps taking by Universalists and others to build a Union Church.

Charles' crops are good, himself and family in their usual health.

It is sabbath to day - a pouring rain. I did not go out this morning but intend to, this afternoon if I can without being drenched. I grudge to lose one of Mr. Tinker's sermons: all other preachers that I have heard here, seem tame and commonplace in comparison with him. I suppose any sermons you will hear there, will seem little better than none. Have you any literary privileges? Periodicals or interesting books new or old? Do you take or read, Harper's? Do you find any society with whom you can hold converse of mind and heart? Any thing in your circumstances, calculated to refine, polish, cultivate and improve the tone of the character, or is it all rough, unhewn, unformed, barren of softening influences? If so, how will you maintain your ground

Have entered upon the last week of the fall term of school; expect the rest of this term will be more laborious. (My board will cost in the winter near 1.50 per week more than at Mr. Ramsey's.) — —

I do hope this will go through to you, and that [illegible] [illegible] I shall [illegible] you don't send [illegible]

against all opposing forces, and, as you ought, steadily improve, as a man and a gentleman? — — Sabbath eve. Attended meeting this afternoon in the midst of the pouring rain and heard such a sermon! Thoughts, rich, clear, and deep, sparkling and welling up, as from an inexhaustible fountain! —the text, "There shall be no night there". How I wish I could convey to you the delight of the mental as well as spiritual feast. He first represented the attractiveness as well as benefits of night, in our present state, its blessings and its teachings, "unrolling the scroll of immensity": — then the glories and excellencies of that higher state, in which there shall be no need of cessation or repose because no weariness of mind or body — the spirit, in the vigor of youth, the freshness of morning, in ever delighted activity, exploring the illimitable fields of the universe; without sin, without doubts, without end!

My attempts to give the smallest idea of the sermon are cold and tame enough, but what a place will his gifted mind take when disencumbered from the clog of the body! Our dear Joseph I think in the character of his mind, as well as in his eccentricities, bore a resemblance to Mr. Tinker, — a shrinking sensitiveness, combined with lofty, firm purpose and fearless independence and even in little peculiarities I can trace a similarity.

Does the thought ever come thrilling up to your mind, that our dear brother is a "ministering spirit", perhaps has a mission to this world and to us, may be, unseen, about our path, when we wake and when we sleep? The remembrance of him is full of tender and deep sadness but not of sorrow. We speak of his death as untimely, but ought we not rather to rejoice and be thankful that he was so early deemed worthy to be employed in angel's work? —

I do hope this will go straight to you, and that I ... ... —Have you done, send Lizzie's book to her?

I have changed my quarters, mainly for the reason that Mr. Burn says it is too far from the Academy. I run in there almost every day, regard them as the best friends I have here. Virginia is slowly improving in health, but Will has a cough, has been advised by his physician to spend next winter in a more mild and equable climate. He intends to start for the East on business in a week or two, to stay some weeks, but their lawsuit with Peters about their water privilege comes on in June, and he thinks he must be here then, I fear not without some danger to his lungs from the rough lake winds and variable weather. He has been very near consumption, if he is not now tending to it.

I do not know whether I have mentioned to you that I wrote last spring by the request of the Trustees, to a young lady of Fitchburg Mass. to take the Juvenile department of the Academy. Her name is Laura M. Woodbury. She went West at the time I did, taught at Milwaukie a year, then returned; we exchanged visits the first summer I was at Racine. She is a girl of fine sound sense, delicacy of feeling, appreciates 'matters and things' and is pious. She will be a true friend to me I trust and that is the blessing I peculiarly need here. We board together at Mr. Allis' on Clinton St. have for our use a pretty front chamber with three windows looking on a pleasant, quiet, shaded street for our sitting room, with a small sleeping room opening out of it, making, you perceive, a suite of rooms.

On a little centre table under the glass, lie (showing to advantage on the blue and ~~yellow~~ orange table cover, — several pretty books, daguerreotypes of three of my brothers (Eliab brought me his, taken by Charles Metcalf) my workbox, &c. and on one side are some small neat hanging bookshelves giving the room quite a cozy appearance. There are eight boarders in the family: we keep our own room, find our own fuel and lights, read to each other evenings: have read about half of 'Bards of the Bible', and <u>like</u> it. Affec'ly Sister Anna.

Anne Westfield N.Y.
Dec. 6–9.

Jonesboro Dec. 23. 1851

Westfield [illegible]

My dear brother

Yours of Nov. 9th I gladly enough received yesterday morning. I had been anxiously expecting to hear from you for some time. — your last previous letter was I think more than two months ago, and I began to think you had concluded to return home this fall and was on the way [illegible]. My last letter written more than a month since it seems you had not received. It is no doubt for the best that you did not get the situation you mention; it might be too great inducement to a permanent location there which is certainly undesirable if business in a more eligible situation can be had and no pecuniary advantage can compensate for loss of health or a shattered constitution. I think you have been fortunate, have no reason to quote the poet's direction though a good one and applicable in one sense or another to all. Your present salary is a handsome income for a young man your expenses must be trifling and I hope you will be able to add a little to the fund in store for future times.

I have kept a week on the new term another academical year. The trustees met after the school commenced and [illegible] continue the [illegible] engage-

[illegible]

-ment had been made with me, so that I felt at liberty to go any time if a better chance offered indeed though a little of it while at Gainesville: there was a vacancy of teachers in a boarding school there with higher salary than I receive but the life of a teacher in a boarding school is most too slavish one for me at any price.

I sometimes think it would be better for me to seek a situation South, where I could receive perhaps double my present salary and so get through teaching the sooner. Had I done so ten years ago I might have had by this time a nice little fund laid up for a rainy day: all I desire is, enough for spending money so that I can spend my time in a beneficent mission among my brothers and sisters when they shall all be married and settled! To to go on however in regard to the School, the Trustees voted to continue the principal Mr. Johnson two years if mutually satisfied, and myself the next year without any reservation. I have made not promise to stay any definite time. The Examination passed off very well, continued two days and evening — an examining Committee was appointed, who reported, complimenting my French class and "happy faculty of leading along the flowery paths of Belles Lettres". The term has opened well I have two large Classes in French, one young lady who has been a

I have come to the conclusion that the climate of Maine with its clear cold steady ... it is most especially as well as most healthy; here we are ...

pupil at Pittsfield. My week's vacation I passed charmingly in my own quiet and pleasant room, the unpropitious weather and walking securing from intrusion. I wrote six letters, five of them to the folks at Milo giving all, a call. Thanksgiving day I was not so very happy — felt uneasy, as if out-of place, thoughts of home of last year's spent at Lucy's, when I myself cooked the Thanksgiving, (thereby hangs a tale) of the cold, clear invigorating air, the deep snow, the company (Crosby's) Thanksgiving eve, — the anticipations too, of the winter the family to be united in sweet companionship as we had not been for a long time. — —

Mr. Tinker gave a splendid discourse upon the former times compared with the present — a retrospect and comparison embodying much information upon all matters of interest, it was inspiriting, truly eloquent, leading the mind back into the past, and forward to the future furnishing germs for long trains of thought. I am much more pleasantly situated than at Mr. Rumsey's because more independent and retired. Miss Woodbury (my chum) and myself live as much by ourselves as if we formed a separate family almost. We have — like thrifty housekeepers — just purchased [illegible] candles, at a bargain [illegible] better quality at a less [illegible] than ordinary. The

I have come to the conclusion that the climate of Maine with its clear cold [illegible] days [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] either is the most agreeable as well as most healthy. I have [illegible] experienced [illegible] weather [illegible] october [illegible]

have some tranquil leisure evenings to spend in reading and enjoy them. We have almost finished together the "Excursion" and it has a deep charm that I have found in no other poetry in an equal degree — We have borrowed Wordsworth's poetical works also a large book of [illegible] [illegible] Recollections & [illegible], quite delightful reading it is. A kind neighbour furnishes us with the New York Observer — the Tribune [illegible] us [illegible] when we wish. The sad accident at the school [illegible] [illegible] York will doubtless be copied into Western papers.

How dreadful and surprising too that a mere panic in a school should result in the [illegible] and death of fifty [illegible]! Elias has owed me a letter several [illegible] & I [illegible] quite anxious to hear from him & know what [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] means to do. Got a letter from [illegible] about [illegible] [illegible] since with a plan of their new house; her [illegible] [illegible] seems to be a little better. I wish I could be with her this winter. Mother has probably returned [illegible] [illegible] by this time. [illegible] [illegible] is spending the [illegible] at formerly [illegible] [illegible] with some friends, [illegible] you not better send her book to her if [illegible] [illegible]?

Her youngest brother Frank — somewhat of a wild madcap [illegible], has been taken [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] at the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] that place. his new [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

It would give me great pleasure [illegible] receive a letter [illegible] you [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] as many [illegible] about [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible]. [illegible] Anna.

Anne Jan. 8. Westfield N. J.

Jonesboro. Feb. 6. 1852

Westfield Jan. 8th 52.

My dear brother

I believe I have not seen from you two letters since the [illegible] of your last [illegible] I have had reason to think you have written as punctually as ever and attributed my lack of information from you to the uncertainty of the mails at this season of bad travelling. I presume mine are long in reaching you if not lost: this place being a little off the direct line of communication from east to west, detention must oftener occur: - I find that letters from Bangor and Milo seldom come in less time than they did at Racine though a thousand miles less distance. I hardly know how to wait any longer for news from you - have been expecting some every day for two weeks: - receiving letters is my greatest pleasure and answering them comes next in the scale of enjoyment: - each one of my correspondents now owes me a letter, some of them two so I hope ere long to have quite a treat. Christmas week I had three days vacation, wrote a long letter to Elial in reply to one from him dated East-Hampton - wrote another to Aunt and mother about as long and sent her a second on New year's day - another holiday, which I spent solitary in my room making a butterfly pen-wiper a somewhat [illegible] construction, enclosing it in my letter to Aunt for a New years offering!

I suppose Samuel is gone into the woods

I wish I could spend some quiet days with mother and Lucy there, don't you? Take the question in both ways if you please for I truly wish we both could be thus favored. I have heard nothing from Almeda or the folks at Milo for some time.

I fear we don't any of us think enough of her sorrows and hardships, and feel for her — I cannot bear the thought that she should have any reason to think, that her brothers and sisters esteem her less because she is poor, than if she were, for instance, situated in Boston with all the luxuries and appliances of wealth around her, herself and children taking no mean place in no mean circle in society, a fate and fortune which would have been predicted much sooner of her than of Caroline Morse in the promise of the youth of each. doubtless in other circumstances, fostering and favourable, our sister Almeda would command admiration and respect, and be a relation to feel proud of; while she is in fact more worthy in her now chastened spirit, rendered humble and affectionate by affliction, she deserves more our deep sympathy than if she had not been so cut off from all earthly hopes and thrown for affection and succor wholly upon her own relatives. I think she now values highly, (Who does not?) the love of her kindred and would feel such manifestation from you to be a true solace and comfort as well as a great pleasure - have you written her lately? - and her children, that are thrown on us as a family - by na

and providence - to fit for usefulness and happiness. - what shall be done for them. Her Lucy is fast verging to the period when she must sustain a character of some kind among others and be doing something for herself: she needs to rub against the world a little, that she may know where she stands and her utter simplicity give place to some just appreciation of the common affairs of the world she is born into must live in and go through.

Yours of Nov. 30th came just after I had written the second to you. It is well perhaps that you have business enough for I think otherwise you would have a very dull and tedious sojourn there at this dreary season when nature, almost the sole source of enjoyment left you, is turned from beauty and verdure to bleak desolation. Is it not a prairie region and how many times do you get 'sloughed' in riding your miles over the wind-biting waste? But you speak of woods. - I would like to see, in the sweet month of June, those lofty trees the luxuriant growth of that fertile soil.

I do hope you will not think of staying there long you cannot hope to escape it, I mean of course the fever and ague especially as you have already felt its grasp: it is to me a fearful disease because so often shattering the constitution however good. I saw an old man the other evening who said he had been afflicted with it every season except two, for thirty years, even here, he first had it in Buffalo, had not proper treatment by physicians and in consequence has suffered much from it ever since

What do you think of Kossuth? Of his wishes and plans? In your last you express'd doubt about remaining longer than [illegible] so perhaps this will [illegible] you but if it do [illegible] [illegible] it either [illegible]

Do not my dear brother, trust to your good constitution but take every precaution and care of your health in regard to exposure diet [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to which you [illegible] [illegible].

As [illegible] school and my continuance here, I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I [illegible] not stay after next summer [illegible] though I am engaged, if [illegible] till next [illegible] [illegible] Principal is deficient in discipline, the school [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a bad condition [illegible] will affect my [illegible] [illegible] in its reputation and in my reputation [illegible] two departments [illegible] so connected) while it [illegible] my [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] inclined [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in good [illegible] [illegible] provision for food to eat and raiment [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] long as I live, by some other means. I am not at all [illegible] but that I could [illegible] enough [illegible] [illegible] employ all my time and energies.

Teaching now has become too much of a drudgery [illegible] [illegible] think sometimes of [illegible] teacher who 'had been [illegible] in a [illegible] boys'; — I cannot [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in the employment, any interest [illegible] [illegible] not that of giving satisfaction, and [illegible] a conscience void of offense. I have [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I will leave [illegible] [illegible] at the summer vacation go home [illegible] meantime advertise for a situation [illegible] [illegible] can [illegible] more [illegible] — so as to lay [illegible] a few more dollars before [illegible] [illegible] life! — I am enjoying the winter quite well with [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] reading [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] May [illegible] 18[illegible].

Dear Brother

I have [illegible] deferred ans[illegible] [illegible] of 22nd inst fearing that you might start for the east before any letter would reach you, but now my hopes prevail, that you will find it possible and expedient to wait and go with me, so I will write a few lines if it reach you well, if not, no matter. I promise [illegible] I hear from you — I am anxiously desiring to to hear from you with regard to your plans. hope you will not fail to write as soon as you yourself know whether and when I may expect you, and if possible what day you can arrive here. The day after school school closes, i.e. the 11th of July I can be ready to take the six o'clock train and be in Buffalo at 9 or 10 A.M. ready to go the same day to the Falls: if you [illegible] [illegible] the letter. I do not [illegible] you [illegible] [illegible] – the [illegible] [illegible] it seems almost im- possible [illegible] [illegible] existence

2d page

or at least, some principle of life that does not die with the sensuous carcass. — There was a funeral here, last week of an old resident of the place a physician of some note, formerly; for several years confined to his room by a painful disease in his feet; — one of them almost entirely consumed, — he suffered much — was an irreligious man, during all his sickness & the very last cursing, swearing, complaining of his lot: he required his wife to sit up with him nights to read novels to him because he thought he could sleep better days than night. The case seems very dreadful to me, all the circumstances of the funeral abhorrent to my feelings. He was a Mason buried with the 'honors of Masonry'; the mayor of Erie, and all others of that order in the region being gathered, coming into church — the church he would never enter during life — with their staffs, badges of office, fanciful and gay regalias all having quite an air of pride at having so fine a display: — it was a melancholy sight. The sermon was by the Methodist clergyman was written and finely too; — it was a happy effort, for so difficult a case, without saying anything offensive to the friends or others, he was faithful to the truth

as well as to his own religious training. But if a man [illegible] should be the requisite [illegible] requirements were drawn from the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and from [illegible] and were [illegible] in any [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

It is just [illegible] since you [illegible] [illegible], but quite [illegible] [illegible] from that [illegible] Spring. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible], and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], in the [illegible] of [illegible] nature, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] beautiful! — The [illegible] [illegible] trees [illegible] with the [illegible] [illegible] brilliant emerald of the [illegible] foliage, the fragrant fruit trees in blossom, the [illegible] [illegible] of the forest just spreading out their [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] but beautiful [illegible]. — The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] them [illegible] nature [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and to delight the [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] for a [illegible] ~~[illegible]~~ to enjoy the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and friends. [illegible] you [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] not I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I like [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] but <u>[illegible]</u> [illegible] [illegible] <u>the [illegible]</u>

E. Anne R.
May 30 '52

Westfield N.Y.
Via Jonesboro Ill.

Bangor

JONESBORO ILL. 17

WESTFIELD N.Y. 31

Bangor
Maine

Anna Bangor Nov 22 1852
DuQuoin Dec 18 - 1852

Bangor Nov 22 1852.

Dear Brother and Sister,

Your last most welcome letter arrived last eve. I had been hoping to hear from you every day for two or three weeks in answer to mine written long ago. Have you received it? you do not mention it. [illegible] received [illegible] [illegible] one from you [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible].

We are all well. [illegible] comfortable [illegible]. Eliab health is he says better now than it has been for two years before; [illegible] [illegible] within the year [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] have been [illegible] [illegible] moved [illegible].

While you are having summer showers and balmy air under your soft southern sky we are beginning to see in right earnest the brisk weather and [illegible] sky of November; beginning I say for we have as yet had no snow [illegible] it is very mild. There have been in this month [illegible] very mild [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] yet not the less lovely [illegible]

which I suppose many poor families look forward with anxiety [illegible] how they shall be secured from suffering [illegible] one who is the [illegible] of poverty. [illegible] is worthy of praise [illegible] of the poor. they are [illegible] provided for [illegible] and the system [illegible] through [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] persons [illegible] and secures the most judicious allotment of the bounties [illegible]: there was a statement in the [illegible] paper [illegible] of the amount and disposal of [illegible] funds, among [illegible] are provided: - three hundred dollars were raised [illegible] to the [illegible] of the city [illegible] [illegible] to be applied [illegible] comfort of the poor: Yesterday the customary contribution was taken for the same object in all the churches.

[illegible] weeks ago Isaac & listened to a sermon for [illegible] happily [illegible]

conspire to [illegible] that [illegible] place in the heart where [illegible] natural good [illegible] [illegible] which we are most likely to find spending much care [illegible] quarter in which we are best disposed

A missing space not a blank but a blemish. A spot tarnishing a splendid painting [illegible] the eye for the beauty of the production. [illegible] of his thoughts from which [illegible] you [illegible] of his [illegible].

How the time flies! can it be that nearly three months have passed since you left us; since we were together at [illegible] picking wild flowers, sailing on [illegible] enjoying the [illegible]; you can hardly realize the change to the brown, frozen earth and leafless trees [illegible] in verdure and beauty in the face of nature. [illegible] happy times [illegible] days [illegible] reading, writing, sketching, taking no thought for the morrow. You will [illegible] perhaps that Last days of Pompeii is [illegible] we have found [illegible] in the most beautiful and attractive style. [illegible] has read it aloud all the [illegible] praise [illegible] of his brain. [illegible]

Nov 12/52

I suppose it is necessary to write enough to redeem my character although it will be of but little use to look for any news after Lucy & Ann have both laid their hands upon every thing of interest. Perhaps it may be of some interest to know that I have five teams now at work hauling logs expect to put in one million about four weeks, it will be expensive logging this year has cost at the Camp $27, corn is worth here $1.10 per bushel pork $25, lumber is selling off this Fall very well and we expect logs to be high next Spring, Yesterday there was a contribution for the relief of the poor in this City, First Parish $150, Sixty of which was given by Gen Veazie, Third $44, Hammond St $100, I have not yet learned what was given by the other Churches, George Frizzell of Milo died while I was at Milo sick but a few days, Lung Fever The River R.R. from here to Old Town is under contract the work will commence this winter, Depot will be on the Roberts wharf below Brown's store, The Road from O. T. to Lincoln is to made next season. Mr Jewett is at work on mason work this Fall, The Kennebec Road is under contract but perhaps a little doubtfull about its being pressed forward, The spire of the Unitarian House is completed hight about 180 feet, quite an ornament to our Pine City, The spire of the third will be about 165 feet I wish you all the crumbs of comfort which you can pick up or get in any honest way in your land of fleas & skeeters S. N. Farber

Lucy's husband

Anne Brownville June 30/95
[illegible] July 19 1895

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] of the [illegible] for the [illegible], a [illegible]
[illegible] in [illegible], [illegible] week, [illegible]
"[illegible] Bound" [illegible] ([illegible])
from the [illegible], that it is only [illegible]
a rock that we [illegible] in the valley [illegible] with
[illegible], consequently [illegible] can neither be [illegible]
nor obtained [illegible] that. [illegible] much pleased & [illegible]
surprised at the great news contained in your last;
May you both have much joy & comfort in the little
stranger but do not let your hearts [illegible] much
lest he be taken from you. [illegible]
[illegible] given [illegible], [illegible]
[illegible] in the [illegible], not [illegible]
home, to a [illegible] at which we
ought [illegible] to rejoice and [illegible] joy [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible], from [illegible]
in times past, [illegible] had made [illegible]
[illegible] a [illegible]
[illegible]
mother [illegible] daughter [illegible] little [illegible]
[illegible] she was yet, [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] is that [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] bright & lovely, [illegible] [illegible] so [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] him.

Should you and [illegible] journey east this summer, it would
do your [illegible] so much good. [illegible] needs to be [illegible]
& [illegible] by the [illegible] [illegible] of her native [illegible]
[illegible] & the fresh, bracing air of our mornings. I hope she
will be able to [illegible] [illegible] in taking care of the baby [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] she [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] & [illegible] [illegible].

Charlie [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] school with Lizzie, he was very
much pleased [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] about the baby [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] well [illegible]".

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] month, it is so lonely still & peace-
ful [illegible] it [illegible] [illegible] think it is a pleasant place after
[illegible] to it. The [illegible] [illegible] in front looks beautifully surroun-
ded by [illegible] gently rising hills clothed with [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] & play, [illegible] [illegible] all [illegible], the orchard
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] upon the [illegible] sides with the
[illegible] trees & [illegible] green grass; the woods beyond
are delightful now, with their [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible], the [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] with [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] evening [illegible] & 6 [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

berries are very abundant all around, [illegible] edge of the woods; but alas!, the musquitoes & black flies are plenty too & cannot [illegible] out of doors but they swarm & rush about me thirsting for my hearts blood; my chin & neck look some as if I had been attempting to cut my throat as the penalty of picking straw berries; the men put [illegible] sprinkled with turpentine [illegible] their heads & necks under their hats, to protect them while at work. They are famous workers here, Jamie has to come to it more than ever before. Mr [illegible] says he worked in the field all day with his father when but eight years old & his sons seem to have followed in the same track. I think they work too hard; there is no doubt that the health of the sons has been injured by labor too constant & severe. Two are dead & the three now alive have each been laid aside by sickness from one to three years. Mr [illegible] himself says his wife might have lived longer but for work, which seems to have been the main purpose of her life. Industry is no doubt one of the cardinal virtues but it has its limits & I think it is [illegible] not [illegible] the [illegible] part. I fear you are spending these years — the best of your life — [illegible] drudging, [illegible] almost [illegible] by [illegible] things, [illegible] & enjoying that which is [illegible] really [illegible]. Cannot you [illegible] Carolina [illegible] of a quiet [illegible] life. Oh what use [illegible] have

so many [illegible] by your [illegible] [illegible] you cannot [illegible] [illegible] consequence is that they [illegible] [illegible] valuable reading. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

The people here, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] not one [illegible] anything [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in fact to [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible]

The [illegible] the most remarkable [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] that we [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] be [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] after [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the Emanuel [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] of modern [illegible] [illegible] it is remarkably [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I think [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I expect [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] will go in [illegible] to [illegible] with [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] your [illegible] as [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] many [illegible] wishes [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Thurs. eve. July 4th 1844.

Dear brother Joseph

I have been intending to write you this two or three weeks, but something else has seemed to occupy the time every day so I have deferred it until now. I received a paper from you last week, for which I am much obliged. I see a Bangor paper only occasionally, and they are always interesting to me.

I wish we could take the Bangor Gazette amongst us and think we rather ought to have one good family and political paper.

I don't know where to begin in telling you the news, don't know but Lucy has told you every thing that would be interesting to you; but I believe I will write just what I think of at the risk of sending you stale news. My school is really pleasant though laborious, on account of the great number of small scholars but not at all hard to manage; have punished but very little. I am near the close of the ninth week and have, consequently only three weeks more to keep. I was at home three weeks ago, Lucy came up after me and Charles brought me back Mond. morn. and went up to the tannery after hair to plaster with. When I was there, Mr Gilman had just finished a fortnight's work and the lathing was mostly done; I have just received a letter from Lucy, - she says Charles has most finished the plastering, and expects Gilman next week to finish the wood work, which will take about two three weeks, and then it will be ready

to paint, but I expect haying will come along, just about that time, and Charles will be obliged to attend to that, and as the house must dry some time after painting I am afraid it will be late in the season before we get into it. Lucy and Eliab went over to Exeter last week to the Piquat conference, - visited Mr. Cutler's and returned through Dover in order to see Isaac, but he himself had gone to Exeter, and from there to Bangor, to attend the Anti Slavery convention of the 20th, - he was kindly entertained at Mr. Harlow's, got a free admission into the Ladies levee in the evening, and Mr Harlow sent Charles H. with his carriage part way home with him. Isaac arrived at Milo Sat. noon and Lucy and old Kate escorted him back to Foxcroft Mond. morning.

Lucy writes that they have not heard from you yet, since your letter written just after you got there, and which did not inform us very particularly of your state, as how hard you have to work, whether in the water any, or in the night, what kind of associates you have and especially what your religious privileges are, and how you improve them. I hope you have got the best boarding place in your power, it is poor economy as I think, for a young person to try to save, by taking up with an inferior boarding place; by having one's place and acquaintance in 'good society' according to the common acceptation of that term, - many advantages accrue, even in a pecuniary point of view, and it seems to me, to be the part of sound wisdom, to look particularly to this subject, of forming acquaintance, whenever going into a new place. There is another respect, in which I fear you do not sufficiently realise your duty and responsibility, I mean as a professed Christian; it seems to me to be plainly the duty of such to make themselves known to other Christians, wherever they go, that it may appear plainly on which side they are, for there is no

neutral ground in regard to one's influence, and if a Christian fail to manifest any influence on the side of his Lord, he in effect gives his influence against it;- is it not so? Please read and ponder 2 Peter 1:5-7 'Add to your faith virtue,' (i.e.) according to just interpretation) courage, manly energy or vigour, what do these terms imply, but making manifest the light that is in ~~them~~ us, in all our works and ways: notice, too, the two last of the enumeration, 'brotherly kindness,' 'charity,' how can these be exercised towards Christians, without knowing and being known of them? Says Foster in that 'masterly production'- 'Saturday Evening,'—"So far as Christians truly exhibit the characteristics of their Lord, in spirit and conduct, a vivid emotion is enkindled in other Christian bosoms, as if the bright Original of all perfections stood dimly revealed. This emotion would hardly be generated by a single instance or in a very few instances of the temper and behaviour that become the gospel; for the divine image, in any single example, is too faint; but in the multitude of instances there may clearly be seen a coincidence;- a harmony- a convergence of evidence; such as leaves no doubt of the truth, that all are copies after the same pattern. The Christian brotherhood is, therefore, to each individual, a sensible proof of the reality of his faith: and each embraces all, not merely with affection; but with that [illegible] solicitude and satisfaction wherewith the soul, at all times, grasps an a[illegible] the substantiality of its dearest hopes." This insulated extract cannot [illegible] appear to you in its full force, as it would could you read the whole of the interesting and excellent chapter on 'the family affection of Christianity,' or better yet, could you read the whole book, which is well calculated to elevate the thoughts and expand the mind. This subject is an important one, not only in relation to one's usefulness, but in regard to one's personal piety and growth in grace,

Probably, there are very few if any, growing useful Christians, who are not social Christians, having communing with other Christians, enjoying the benefit of their watch, examples and prayers. — — —

July 6th (Mr. & Mrs. Sewall and child have gone a journey to see their friends, have been gone three weeks and expect to be gone two more, her sister, and ~~their~~ little girl three years old, and myself, compose the whole family so we ~~he~~ have very quiet and rather lonely times. Ellen Brown has been quite kind & attentive to me; I spent the 4th with her; kept school till eleven. I expect to be at home a week from to day

M. Tewell is appointed by the M. M. Society to preach ½ of the time in Wile and vicinity. Send me another paper if convenient, and if you will write me as soon as you get this, I can take your letter home with me next Sat. and show to the folks you know.

Yours affect'y E. A. Rich

E. Corinth Me
July 8
way 11
single

Mr. Joseph M. Metcalf
Oldtown Me.

May 5th Mond morn

Joseph I am afraid you are so hurried with your affairs that you did not understand what errand I wished you to do respecting the School — I received a letter from Mr. Stevens a fortnight since requesting to know simply whether I was engaged, and whether I would take that school but he was not authorised to make any bargain and did not mention any price — now I did not write an answer to *him* but sent and answer verbally by *you*, which, if you failed duly and seasonably to deliver, I rest under the imputation of a great breach of polite[illegible]d respect with regard to Mr. Stevens — this you may suppose I am very unwilling to suffer — therefore if you have not faithfully spoken with him about it you must immediately, and explain the matter so that he will have no reason to think himself ill treated by *me* something in yours by Mr. Sargent led me to fear that you overlooked the answer to be given to Mr. *Stevens* if so, I [illegible] you should at once let him know the *facts*; —

I have received no direct application yet, but only an inquiry whether I would take it, — [illegible] if they want me and are pretty unanimous in it I will take it for $2.00 per week, but not for less — or if there should be a fair prospect of a good private school for three or four months *instead*, I should like it better, they may try to do this if the district are unwilling to give me my {price,

Dear Brother Jo— I was "going to go" to Foxcroft today & perhaps I may still but lest I should be disappointed I'll put [illegible] send by some one [illegible] Eclipse this morning [illegible] with [illegible] have been up in the Heavens a little way [illegible] as to look down on Sol a little sooner, and see the ring). I smoked my glass having great expectations, and "lo lo," there was only a common Eclipse — I hope we shall see the transit of Mercury Thursday. I want to go [illegible] today & do some shopping, & stay two or three days, till [illegible], but don't much expect I can. Send me [illegible]

Mr. Joseph M. Metcalf
Foxcroft
Maine

May 2– 1845
Anne & Lucy

but of course you will say nothing about that. — I suppose you will be at home next Sat. and I hope you will know the true state of the case by that time. — —

N. B. [illegible] this half of the letter is business, the remainder you may put aside till you have leisure.

[illegible] July 5th 1845.

[illegible] Bell [illegible]

Your [illegible] I had that [illegible] should have answered [illegible] but [illegible] [illegible]

As to [illegible] business with which you [illegible] trusted; [illegible] and Charles [illegible] myself think there would be little risk in engaging to hire the room if he will build it though perhaps not on a very long lease though probably he would not be solicitous about that, as he would not build on [illegible] less he believed it would be readily rented: Mr. W. said a [illegible] was much needed in that vicinity by the city [illegible] to rent the [illegible] Roberts put up a small schoolhouse on State Street for Miss [illegible], the cost of which I have estimated at about $[illegible] and rent [illegible] I should think a house that would accommodate [illegible] with [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible] would [illegible] better [illegible] a smaller [illegible] and would [illegible] of the [illegible] in Boston. I paid $ 86 [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] If he builds [illegible] it will be because he sees it to be a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] because I will engage to take it.

There seems to be [illegible] good [illegible] [illegible] now, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] means [illegible] into it [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] but you & E. have been [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] whether the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I [illegible] [illegible] I have [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] expect it [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

If you are [illegible] your [illegible] I should like [illegible] [illegible] is here because I am sure [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] occasion. If I do [illegible] expenses will be $20 or 30 before I could realize [illegible] school [illegible] additional [illegible]

[illegible] I do not care much — if you can [illegible] I will give you a note and send for M. J.'s next winter if C. cannot make it out; — if you are willing I should depend upon your money for the present. [illegible] will make no certain conclusion about it until I ascertain [illegible] better & stay at Bangor as this might alter my arrangements and destination.

In respect to 'aristocratic sentiments,' it is barely possible that you have imbibed some prejudices or [illegible] fail to appreciate justly the characteristics and [illegible] of that class of persons you indiscriminately term 'aristocratic': [illegible] who possess highly educated minds, refined and cultivated taste, manners graceful, winning, polished and essentially [illegible] are so far from exalting themselves above others that they [illegible] esteem other better than himself?' yet who are, [illegible] habits and associations as well as regard to the customs of society, fashionable, observant of forms, etiquette, and the [illegible] show as a matter of course; and, as I believe, [illegible] to gratify pride and love of display, [illegible]

[illegible] the opinion of mankind [illegible]

[illegible] proving [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
ing? to the common-sense estimation of people in general, in regard to the question [illegible] moral bearing. What has all this to do with aristocracy? If it is [illegible] [illegible] any [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] if [illegible] holding ourselves above the [illegible] [illegible]; — is it not right to seek to [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] in what constitutes true refinement of taste and manners, [illegible] [illegible] all that, which renders the [illegible] [illegible] to beauty, whether it be moral, intellectual or merely in relation to sensible objects and [illegible] [illegible] taste? Do not the [illegible] [illegible] generally, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] with pride? [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] wealth, [illegible] [illegible] consciousness of deeper research into things than others, some whim of possessing superior refinement of mind, or a more exact observance of outside forms, and such idle ceremony as the world deems [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] of the upper classes who are apt to suppose that pride is their exclusive badge, distinguishing them from the [illegible] but in fact pride is [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], — [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] by [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in "Satan's [illegible] household." [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] perhaps an uncommon [illegible], not confined to one member of the family, but taking its particular direction [illegible] the [illegible] mental characteristics of each, and pretty fairly developed in [illegible]. Is it not that you [illegible] a sort of [illegible], an [illegible], [illegible] feeling toward [illegible]? [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] it seems to [illegible] that it would be a great [illegible] [illegible] to your character if you would [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] lends fascination if you [illegible] among them all the [illegible] [illegible] only — be thinking (these [illegible] are ready to [illegible]? this [illegible] of ours will [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in the fields you [illegible] [illegible] friendly to enjoy the face of nature

[illegible] in [illegible]. The [illegible] are beautiful and calculated [illegible] in [illegible] upon the mind and [illegible] [illegible] in the [illegible] words. — [illegible] ought to [illegible], [illegible] present [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible] says [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] of your present situation [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] you [illegible] must [illegible] acquainted with [illegible] you are, as [illegible] [illegible] be [illegible] in your hands.

Mr. Joseph H. [illegible]
Care [illegible]
B[illegible]

Ann
July 5 – 18[illegible]

[illegible] regard to your [illegible] [illegible] judge [illegible] you [illegible] [illegible] impressed the [illegible] your [illegible], and [illegible] you [illegible] [illegible] by [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], and you [illegible] can [illegible] that [illegible] that it would [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] situation [illegible], even if you should [illegible] [illegible] for your [illegible] it would [illegible] where you could [illegible]

Ann.

Dec. 31, 1852

[illegible] It would take a whole sheet on which to indite an epistle to you but I am afraid I should write too long a letter, filled with nothing [illegible]. I am aware that you like things brought to a focus, so will try not to [illegible] too much but I am so much in the habit of scribbling along without order or connection that I shall find it difficult to keep to a point, even if I find one. —

First I thank you much for your last good letter as well as sundry poetic rhapsodies, highly graphic and recondite [illegible], enlivening and tickling my fancy concerning [illegible] affairs.

You can't imagine how much I want to be there with you now you are at leisure, — I have scarcely seen you a minute that you were not in a hurry for the last two or three years: — now I do intreat you to enjoy your time, leisure and freedom from care, just throw to the winds carping care, about what you shall do in the future, — a way can be opened before you in a moment by an allwise Providence — when the right time comes for you to act there will be enough for you to do, in this age of fast [illegible] and rail-road speed. How I should like to sit with you in the front room and see the face of nature green and gay, [illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible], and the [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] a favorite [illegible] [illegible] of one of the birds common here — the ground [illegible] — I have not heard this but [illegible] that are new to me, and have seen one beautiful bird, plumage all over of a brilliant red: — a bird common in Ohio, occasionally seen here. — I am quite scandalized that Uncle Henry and Charles have not a boat on that river, [illegible]. Is the front yard level smooth and clean and covered with green grass? Are the trees that were set out growing? Does Almeda expect to have a family in her house all summer and does the inconvenience thereof yield her any pay? Does James work — is he lucky?

Mr. J. W. Metcalfe

Wilo.

[illegible] experiments [illegible] have [illegible] in respect to the [illegible] in the air [illegible] detected it, [illegible] sulphur [illegible] antidote [illegible] successfully [illegible] is what Mr. Hopkins mentioned [illegible] but I neither [illegible] heard any [illegible] about it more.

[illegible] leaves of the [illegible] of a yellowish [illegible] look as if touched by the frost. The spring here is late [illegible] more so [illegible] usual [illegible] season.

I sent a letter to Lucy & Eliza last week, one [illegible] to both Lizzie & Isaac. My eyes will not allow me to write evenings & I have little time.

The class are not going to study Botany till fall. I am trying to look into Wood's Botany: wish you could help me: it is much more extensive than Lincoln's

To answer your queries respecting school lands as well as I am able. I am credibly informed the land was given by [illegible]. The middle section of six miles square is reckoned the sixteenth square mile. The Legislature have taken it into their [illegible] to apportion, but prized this place enormously high, but have however been petitioned and made a [illegible] of about one third, the inhabitants have concluded to pay, and their terms are these, one tenth to be paid each year and 7 percent interest reckoned previous to payment. As to the cedars they are but few, on the steep bank of the river very large, going to decay, the few bushes growing look just like those at [illegible] but the inroads made upon their precincts by men [illegible] will soon destroy their [illegible]. This place is quite a paradise for lawyers and physicians particularly the latter, they all make money, and there is a [illegible] of them: ministers do not thrive so well. Racine has five churches besides foreign, and has just sent off three of the ministers and there are a [illegible] disaffected who wish Mr. V. to leave: whether he will I know not. Seriously I judge this must be a good place for lawyers: it is situated like Bangor in respect to commanding the business of the country around. I have become a little acquainted with one good one — Mr. Worden from [illegible] — has practised his profession several years at [illegible] previous to coming here. Come on here next Aug. and then if you like, you can stay and read law with him next winter; eh?

I have no doubt you will derive real benefit from journeying therefore say I, go, and come, and spare not the filthy lucre.

You can go from Bangor to Buffalo for less than twelve dolls. From Buffalo here the fare will not exceed six or eight; so you could come and return for about fifty dolls. I have written at you in my letter to mother which you may read and ponder and write me your cogitations. Is not singular that there have been so many fires and steamboat[illegible] of late ~~and~~ that New Orleans is sunk under water. There have been fifty deaths from Cholera at Chicago, and eight at Southport a place ten miles south of this: none here as yet. I do not fear its prevailing the place is so elevated and airy.

St Paul's is said to be a place of prosperous [illegible] ... would a chance for residence

Racine Aug. 27th, 47

Dear Brother

Your and Mother's welcome letter was duly received the last of June, in just eight days passage. I like the plan of a journal much — hope you have another ready — Why will you not constantly keep me advised of the state of things there how you are all prospering and what you are doing, nothing will be uninteresting even to setting out cabbages. — I have been rather neglected of late, even Lucy has become remiss — she did not write for two months — I received one from her however a few days ago. Eliab has not written lately. I deferred writing myself to Isaac and consequently did not hear from him for some time, but he, good brother as he is answered mine the day after receiving it. I suppose he is at [illegible] more or less perhaps left — he wrote me he expected to go in Aug. How I wish I could be there too, — you don't know how lonely I am, it does not seem like vacation, which I usually so much enjoy. I am shut up in my room every forenoon attending to a pupil reviewing her studies preparatory to entering South Hadley school: quite a confinement for me and labour too, as she has to be thoroughly drilled in the most difficult part of studies etc., and seems this would be perfectly easy for you or Eliab require some effort for me. — I feel a sort of listlessness, uneasy feeling, wanting something, I know not what, or rather I do know what, it is to see you all. The first week of Aug. I took an excursion to [illegible] and five miles west to Wauwatosa. One of the teachers who was with me last fall, is located there: She came and spent a few days with me, then I returned with her. It is a charming

little country place of thriving New Eng. farmers and neat dwellings — very much resembling Milo and towns about the same variety of surface, undulating, not hilly, the same new appearance, occasional stumps to be seen, but unlike down east, as I sat at the window my eye ranged over broad fields of high waving corn, and broader fields of wheat just being harvested. My friend is in the family of a minister, — a good yankee from old Mass. Another, a Home Miss. a graduate from Andover was there, a young man of bone and sinew both physical and mental; — he preaches in four towns and walks ten or fifteen miles each time to do

I enjoyed myself well, was made very welcome, staid four days. The trip on the lake was charming, the water cl and placid, — the boat — Niagara, one of the "floating pal of the west; we started about three, arrived at Milwaukie, 2 miles, at five, walked round the city while waiting for the man Miss W. expected to carry us to Wawatosa; the city re minded me of Bangor, the business part is on a flat, whi the residences are on higher ground, it is more unfinished a rough in appearance, though somewhat larger in popula tion. We were disappointed in having any one come for us, for they heard there was no boat came in, till evening, so we expected have to pass the night at public house; but an old neighbour of Miss W, chanced to come to the same hotel, and politely offered to carry us out, accordingly at sunset, stood a handsome carriage at the door, and we had a fine moon light ride of five miles, on plank road, by the side of Menomonie stream our companion very entertaining and a splendid singe

3d Page

He would receive no pay though it must have been a dollar or two expense: this man had been much in the west, consequently his careful close-fisted yankeeism had been replaced by the free open liberality belonging to this region, where such acts of generous politeness are not very rare.

On my return I stopped two days at Milwaukie at Mr. Mc Dougal's: she is the Miss Garland who kept the school at Milo soon after we moved there: I had seen her in Bangor though never much acquainted: he is uncle to Nat. Hatch, who is teaching school yet, somewhere down east.—

They have resided in Milwaukie eight years: I did not like him much, he is almost a Garrisonite, extremely ultra; I did not enjoy my stay there, was not much pleased with the city though undoubtedly it is a fine place for business: was there Sabbath — did not think the preacher so talented as Mr. Hopkins, who is really a smart man, style peculiar to himself, much originality and great animation: I will give you an expression in his prayer the other morning at family worship 'May the deep-toned thunder of eternal truth, jar open the eye of the immortal mind.' If you should hear him preach you would laugh half the time the first few sermons, he commands excellent attention and a good audience; yet he has some bitter enemies who are trying all their powers to get him away. —

This is a great country! all restlessness and commotion, or perhaps I should say these are strange times in which we live: ~~and~~ all the elements of ~~the~~ social fabric, usually settled and tranquil, are bubbling up and boiling over, to elaborate

perhaps a purer and more perfect state of things. There seem here to be a constant succession of exciting events, as so[on as] one is past, another transpires. A few weeks since two you[ng] ladies from Cincinnati on there way home into the country stopped at this place. One was a teacher the other a pupil sister for a school there: they were under the charge of a young man also from Cin. The young girl was very sick on the passage had enormous doses of calomel given her, was reported to have the cholera so they were not permitted to land at Milwaukie a[s] they wished because she seemed to be sinking so rapidly: they were humanely received at the "Racine house"; and every thi[ng] done for them: Mr H. went to see them, liked their appearance much. — in a few days the girl died — killed by medicine probab[ly] she had no physician here, there were two boarding at the sa[me] public house which probably provoked some of them. — After her burial, two physicians, under the base pretext of having suspicions of her character, got by some mea[ns] a legal warrant to make an examination; disinterred th[e] body and dissected it in the night. Just after that, there was an event still more tragic. A young lady of good appearance came from Chicago, took a room at one of the hotels, soon began to be ill, became alarmingly so, physicians were called against her wishes: they charged her with having take[n] poison, which she reluctantly confessed: it was too late to sa[ve] her; she had brought her shroud ready made, and fifty dolls to defray the expenses of a decent burial, not wishing she said to make any one any trouble. Mr. H. attended her sad funera[l]. She had been betrayed and deserted by a man to whom she was engaged and in her agony screwed herself to march thus coolly up to that dread deed. She was a member of the Methodist church.

5th page

Three or four more affairs of thrilling interest which have happened or are in progress I might relate but the stories

... already thinking. —

I think it may be well for you to try the water cure, though I have some fears of it's being too harsh. Mr. William Bennett, uncle of Bath, Hyde, was helped much by it, in a spinal disease: he was unable to walk I believe or to exercise scarcely any. his difficulty all in his back. I think if you go Mother, Lucy, or Almeda ought to go with you: if I was there, I would go. Keep up good courage my brother, it is a great affliction but there is One that can give support, and relief too in his own good time. Do not read so much, but converse more social intercourse with friends and neighbours if you will but suffer yourself to be drawn out of that inner chamber of reserve in which you have too much encased yourself will I fully believe act as a medicine for you. the

they have a machine which at once, reaps, ... the wheat into bags. I enquired if the bags were tied up also, but he thought not; probably they are attached to the machine and taken off as fast as filled. It seems the drought has been severe your way; as well in Vermont and New York. A lady from Vermont represents every thing as parched up, crops to a great extent cut off, in some instances fields of grain burned down into the ground from fires in the woods.

There have been frequent showers here during the season and the most delightful weather I ever in my life experienced, pure invigorating air, cool but mild breezes

perhaps a purer and more perfect state of things. There seem here to be a constant succession of exciting events, as so[on] one is past, another transpires. A few weeks since two yo[ung]

tendency of your mind is rather to fix itself [illegible] some po[int] as to a pivot, which you examine minutely and closely all belonging to that point. I do not mean that you do not take comprehensive views or an extensive ran[ge] few have made more acquisitions than you with the same time at command — but you are in the hab[it] of confining the mind too much I fear especially for your present health — there is a kind of versatility of mind which is more natural to Isaac than to you, and which it appears to me it would be beneficial to you now to cultivate by variety and lightness in the character of your reading, and especially by free intercourse with other minds in easy conver-sation which though irksome at first, can by habit become agreeable Ann

event still more tragic. A young lady of good appearance came from Chicago, took a room at one of the hotels, soon began to be ill, became alarmingly so, physicians were called against her wishes: they charged her with having taken poison, which she reluctantly confessed: it was too late to save her; she had brought her shroud ready made, and fifty dolls to defray the expenses of a decent burial; not wishing she said to make any one any trouble. Mr. H. attended her sad funeral. She had been betrayed and deserted by a man to whom she was engaged and in her agony nerved herself to much thus coolly up to that dread deed. She was a member of the Methodist church.

Three or four more affairs of thrilling interest which have happened or are in progress I might relate but the stories are too long as perhaps you are already thinking. –

There are difficulties in the church here of a strange and startling character. The people here have a sort of free, reckless, dashing, and daring way of doing things, unlike the staid, organized, judicious management of things at the east – the narrow and rocky vallies of New England are exchanged for the wild and boundless prairie. – –

Business is very lively now, wheat begins to pour in, the time for reaping comes earlier than in N.E. most frequently it is sufficiently dry to be carried directly to the barn ~~from~~ the standing field. A rich man who came here when all was new, has a field of wheat, one enclosure – of one hundred and sixty acres. Reaping is done by a machine worked by horses on the trot, from fifteen to twenty acres in a day. In Michigan, as I was told by a clergyman from there, who preached here a week ago, they have a machine which at once, reaps, threshes, and puts the wheat into bags. I enquired if the bags were tied up also, but he thought not; probably they are attached to the machine and taken off as fast as filled. It seems the draught has been severe your way; as well in Vermont and New York. A lady from Vermont represents every thing as parched up, crops to a great extent cut off, in some instances fields of grain burned down into the ground from fires in the woods.

There have been frequent showers here during the season. the most delightful weather I ever in my life experienced, pure invigorating air, cool but mild breezes

Ann Aug. 22. 1849.

clear skies: vegetation looks beautifully now. Mr. H. garden is very fine, tall dahlias - a variety of pretty flowers, several weeping willows small, but bending their graceful boughs to the ground, almost touching - fine locust trees all round the fence outside, both at the house and Seminary. There are two little carnevack trees a species of evergreen I had not seen. Tomato plants are most as high as my head, the fruit already turning yellow - we have had some cooked ones: we have had green corn, squashes, beets, cucumbers; and new potatoes this long time.

It has been remarkably healthy here all the season very few cases of cholera and those among the intemperate or those of filthy habits: it however prevails to some extent around us; and we may yet be visited.

There have been many deaths at Chicago: - 30 at a small Norwegian Settlement back of Milwaukie, in the latter place 10 died from cholera in the two days I was there.

You have seen by the papers I suppose of the great mortality at Sandusky; a family visiting here from that place, state that such was the panic that in some instances they fled leaving unburied dead in their houses: Physicians went from Cleveland to attend upon the sick. On every boat there are more or less cases: a neighbour just returned from Buffalo said there were four deaths on the passage, two bodies were thrown overboard. There is much rivalry between the boats round the lakes and the railroad company through Michigan: by the latter route one can go from here to Buffalo in 36 hours for five dollars and found. In some cases the boats round the lakes have carried for three even two dollars. —

To wife mr. Mother Josiah, Almeda Charles Albina: much love to all the chicks and children and babies.

Anne Feb. 2. 1850 Racine

Feb 2^d 1850.

Dear brother Joseph

Why do you not write to me; Are you thinking that I owe you a letter, while I am convinced you owe me one? Did my last to you and Mother fail in reaching its destination?

It was written last Sept. or Oct. I believe sent ~~about~~ a little before the time Mother's was written i.e. the day you left for Waterford, I have heard nothing since – don't know whether to direct this, but think I will send it with Mother's; don't intend this scribble for a letter – if you will write me soon I will send as good one as I can. I give you great joy in the finishing off of rooms, if it be accomplished, in the anticipation of it, if yet in perspective; How nice and comfortable you would all be this winter if I was only there to "slick up"! I am teaching a class in French by Ollendorff's new Method – changing English into French in short sentences. Had I better learn German if I can?

We have in school two German girls whose father is rich and educated came a few months since from Germany they have been well instructed can cipher well, but cannot understand hardly a sentence in English: the father offers to give ~~me their~~ board to some one to teach them to talk English. I am going to enquire about it and perhaps – --- if the sour crout is cooked clean, and if I can learn German pure, ~~which~~ it might be worth while. – Next week I am intending to send 50 dolls in a draft to Elias – he may give you the

the draft I intend to send I shall pay a premium on of 1¼ percent – it will be on some bank in New York and will be accepted by any merchant in Bangor while it will be safe to [illegible] if lost [illegible] lose not the money

the rule as you have the rest of my large possessions in your hands. I leave it with you to ~~exact~~ what interest you think proper. Your remarks and advice in reference to such matters in your last were both acceptable and appropriate and I am indeavouring to follow it.

Rev. S. B. [illegible]
Milo
Me.

10

The property owned and occupied by Mr H. ~~is esti-~~ would any day command 3000 dolls. Mrs. H. has a flourishing school so they are able to pay. and I do not doubt will be ready and willing to exercise strict justice though will be careful to do nothing more. & I want no more.

Mr. H. had Lynch's expedition to Dead Sea presented at donation, which I am reading.

Anne Racine Wis.

July 23. 1850

Brother Joseph

I shall be very happy to receive an emanation from your pen as soon as you may find it convenient and agreeable to favour me

I would like to be informed respecting Isaac's present locality, business, intentions and prospects, I received a letter from him about two or three weeks since, which I think some of answering as soon as I shall be informed whither to direct a letter.

During the past week, this community has been favored with the presentation of the subject of Psychological Biology by a gentleman who I am told has lectured in Bangor, by name of Harvey Dodge a Universalist minister; I attended one evening by chance, he found one subject whom he could influence he endeavoured to explain "the Science" by attributing it to the ~~phe~~nomena of electricity, — has undertaken the cure of a woman who has been confined to her house mostly to her bed for a year or two with spasmodic action of nerves connected with the heart. he states that any person who is a subject of this mesmeric influence, can be cured at once of any disease whatever. The influence

he obtained is plainly real, and is strange; but not more so than many facts in science, which cannot be explained: whatever there may be in the whole matter of Magnetism, mesmerism or Biology will I believe some day be explained on scientific principles and conduce in some way to the good of man as has the magnet, compass power of Steam &c —

Rev. A. M. Metcalf
Care of C. W. Kirk Esq.
Milo Me.

10

A son of old President Humphrey of Andover, is preaching in the Presbyterian church will probably be settled while Mr. Hopkins preaches in the Court House to a few of his former congregation, and others who come to hear: he has himself been employed lately in obtaining subscriptions to build a new small church for Congregationalists, has succeeded in ~~getting~~ the requisite amount and the building is soon to be commenced.

Adieu

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Sister Anne. Westfield New York
Oct. 15. 1850

Racine Oct 4th /50

Dear brother

Since my last to you I have received two good letters from you for which I am much obliged, I am truly glad to hear of the prosperous and desirable situation in which Providence has placed you. I do hope you will not by any circumstances be led to overtax the system to endanger your health — do not reckon too much on your strength and good constitution; dear Joseph's case ought to be a warning to you and Eliab. There is not in my mind the shadow of a doubt of the cause of his present condition: his bent of purpose, ambition, and strength of resolution and will; led him to overtax his energies, both physical and mental: regrets are vain, but warnings are not, if heeded in time. —

I am on the eve of starting for home, should have taken a boat yesterday had one passed, shall wait till next Mond. now, so as not to be out over the sabbath. my intention is to stop at Erie and spend the sabbath — Westfield N.Y. instead of Buffalo at a hotel. have been invited to do it by an acquaintance living there whose brother is going to Boston, so I shall have company all the way from there: As soon as I ascertain what day I shall reach Boston, I will mail this, so that if you can possibly get away you can jump on to the cars and meet me at Boston: I shall doubtless stop there a few days

Bradford Via Newbury N.H. Oct. 19 1850

during a sabbath probably. You can snatch a few hours, come without expense I suppose, — I want to see you very much — shall be much disappointed if I cannot. After I reach Milo, I shall be stationary there for a while at least. Mother's task must be great, she needs what assistance and comfort I can render, I shall enjoy much too in Joseph's society though it will be very trying to me to see him so helpless, not gradually as with the rest of you — to me the change will be from perfect health apparently, to utter prostration.

I have felt all along, that if I could do as well as I have done, being so far from home, I would stay a year or two longer before returning, but Providence seems to order it differently. No way is open for me to stay, no situation, suitable or at all desirable, that I can obtain by any exertion. Mrs. H. would be glad to have me stay longer and even increase my salary provided I could teach Algebra, but that I cannot do, so she has engaged another teacher — a young lady from Pittsfield Institute who has been here in the family the last five weeks, — while Mrs. H. was absent I was housekeeper (i.e. had the direction of matters — girl young and incompetent and for all my faithful care and over labour I have not been so much as thanked. but I have learned some useful lessons here. Many times in my life I have sacrificed my own feelings & even interest from a spirit of kindness and good will to others, without the satisfaction of its being even appreciated. It is

really 'green' and stupid to be obliging, ready to exert one's self for the good of others, one is neither liked so well, nor treated so well as if selfish rather cold hearted, with a smooth tongue — this is one of the lessons experience of the West has taught me! — But in the retrospect of the past two years, I am satisfied. The circumstances in which I have been placed, have furnished just the discipline and training that I needed, just that which will be useful to me as long as I live: I have experienced much that was pleasant, far more than I anticipated: I have saved more, (though little enough to be sure — than in any other two years of my life and shall have besides, the advantage and benefit of the journey and travel back & forth. I feel very unwilling to pass by Niagara Falls, and hope I shall not have to — should have been very glad to have seen the north western part of this state the finest part and already very flourishing. If I should engage in teaching again I should prefer the region about St Paul's to any other I think: perhaps after the Furbers get settled there I may go — should prefer teaching at the west rather than at the east and feel as if the journey here would be but a pleasant excursion, instead of the formidable undertaking of former years. —

Westfield Oct 14th Mond Morn. This is the prettiest place I have seen for a small village: it is two miles from the lake but is a port, where the smaller steamers call. I am enjoying myself finely in a downright good

but unpretending family - name Rumsey. I left Racine last Mond. morn, crossed lake Michigan to New Buffalo thence by railroad to Detroit half a day by daylight so I had a view of the eastern half of the State — many pretty villages but scenery altogether too tame. Took steamer from Detroit to Cleveland, then had to wait a day for a boat going to Erie — at this season the boats are irregular — my stay in Cleveland cost me, 75 but was extremely pleasant; A lady living two miles out of the city was at the hotel waiting for a boat to go west; her husband came in to the city with his buggy so she invited me to ride with them took me almost all over the city; to the cemetery which is beautiful. Cleveland lies high above the lake is finely laid out streets all of them six rods broad; - contains many superb residences with large gardens of shrubbery and flowers. It seems not so remarkable for trade and business as beauty of situation and as a place of residence for those whose only concern is to enjoy life. I have been here three days expect to start tomorrow, go by way of New York: a route I shall enjoy much: Mr. Rumsey ~~must~~ stay in N.Y. two days on business, and, though it will increase ~~my~~ expenses 4 or 5 dolls. I do not regret it: shall perhaps never have so good an opportunity again to see that place, with one to go round with me who is acquainted: - hope I shall hear Jenny Lind. I expect to be in Boston Sat. of this week: cannot you spend Sabbath there: if not cannot you be there in the course of the week following. I mean to stay in Boston a week or more.

My journey west cost me nothing: my return will take quite a sum from my scanty purse. My expenses are increased by stopping here but my journey will be much more pleasant and I am willing to spend something for the sake of visiting New York. Shall go to Buffalo by stage from here, sixty miles, and to Boston by way of the Sound.

In Boston I intend stopping at Mr Chase's, No. 26 Elliot Str. - have written her — may stay some at Mr. & Metcalf's.

To Almeida

Dear sister

I believe I did not get so much calico as the your money would purchase, I do not recollect whether the ten cents was handed me by you or Mother and it was not convenient for Charles to see me after he sold the eggs till I had bought the calico, so I thought I would abide by your last direction; the eggs came to, 29 which C. gave me, so whatever there is left for you, I have, and will lay it out in thread or any thing you want. I was sorry I could not get any more calico for R. Keen; it was all sold, — and still more sorry that I forgot to say so in my note:

If you will send me a measure of length of skirt, waist, and size of neck, waist and arm, I will make a dress for Lucy out of one of my old ones, sometime before I go home in the fall.

——— I had a thought pop into my head the other day which has rested there ever since; it is that Charles when he gets his money should buy your place for Mother's share: then he can keep the whole of his farm according to his desires and Mother still have a home of her own for herself and children; you said while I was there, that if you could sell your place for the money you gave for it, you should think it best to go back to Boston, & that it would have been better for you not to have bought, if you could have got the ready money that Charles owed you, any other way; now I think so too, it seems to me that a small, hard farm, away from a good market, and away from all privileges, is but a poor chance for a good mechanic to get his living, especially when neither himself nor wife are strong and able bodied,

It is possible, you know, that the world may stand these many years yet, and that your children may be inhabitants of it, may have to make their way through it, and perform their part in it, and were I a parent I should think a residence in Boston, with all its advantages, greatly preferable to Milo with its utter destitution of all means of culture — the opening of the Albany railroad has given a great impulse to business in Boston especially mechanical; & it would cost but little for James to go and see what he could do there, and even if you should think it your duty not to act upon the established principle of the world of mankind, viz. the uncertainty of future events, I say even supposing you ought to act upon your certain knowledge that the world would come to an end next year, — which however I have no idea you practically believe — it would still seem to be your best course to sell, supposing you could, for you would then have no payments to make out, and could get along comfortably, without James's being obliged to work himself sick: you, too, ought not to have so much hard work to do as must be done to carry on a farm profitably; you ought to contrive it so as to have your needle occupy most of your time, either for yourself or others

There seems to be a general belief among Christians and even among Mohammedans that their power is near its end, that is, 1260 years from its commencement which they get from Rev. — Missionaries seem to be aware that the great contest is to be now, with popery, since they meet with very little opposition elsewhere, — the battle of the great day is to be fought which is to usher in the Millennium. —
The funds of the American board are much larger than ever before, and they are calling for men; —— those who become christians in this blessed age, are called into the kingdom for action, not for idle speculation, or a life of worldly ease.

Mother what think you of my plan, it ~~has been~~ keeps coming up in my mind again and again, and I even dream about it nights, it seems to me it would be a good plan for all concern'd it would in a sense keep the money in the family, and entirely settle the difficulties about division of property, and as to the debts, with no one but himself to claim or consume any of the produce of that nice, great farm, C. could pay them from it as easy as day. Mr Patten ~~does not~~ expects only a small payment at present, nor are any other present demands great,

It seems most likely that some one of the three boys will follow the business to which they have been so long and thoroughly apprenticed, viz. farming, and if so they want a place of their own to farm it on, you want a permanent home for your old age, and a refuge for your old maid daughters or an asylum for a married daughter with two or three helpless little innocents while her husband, good man, is diligently seeking a place of settlement. it is well to look forward and make provision for coming evils, which surely can be done without disobeying the direction, "Be not anxious for the morrow".

I need to use some of the things I left behind, especially, drawers which were my only handsome pair, I wish you would send the things ~~them~~ if convenient, next week by Cutts, to be left at Duren's bookstore,

I want to hear of all your affairs very much. especially of Ellen Lo.

The state of religion is interesting here, several new conversions, Mr. P. has been gone a ~~fortnight~~ week to attend the state conference in Portland, the meetings were unusally interesting, it was stated repeatedly that there never has been a time known when there was such ready access to to the mind of all classes of men on the subject of religion as now.

Have had two or three new scholars — mostly old ones come back. my school is really pleasant and much engaged in study. I like my boarding place well, well but Mrs. Walker is most homesick, I do not think she will find any place so pleasant as feeling house, she is going to Bluehill next week, to stay a week I pay 5,00 per year [illegible] now.

Am[illegible]

Bangor

Single

6

Mrs. Anna C. M. Metcalf.

Milo Me.

Lucy I want to caution you against indulging in much light reading both on your own account and because of the example — those who have been professors of religion for ~~[illegible]~~ years ought to be able to be a teacher as well as example for those who are but just begun. a duty rests upon Christians in respect to young converts to keep them in the fold.

June 7th 1846.

I expect to go to my new boarding place tomorrow dread it some; have had a severe cold since I returned can't imagine how I took it was so hoarse one day that I could not speak at all when I first got up nor scarcely all day: suppose Isaac told about my broken windows, Joseph sent Drinkwater from the store to mend them next day— suppose it will cost from 1,50 to 2,00: J. has found the names of two or three boys; talks of sending the bill to each of their fathers through the P. O. — 4 of my scholars have left; 3 to go to public school as I expected they would at the end of the quarter,— one George Dillingham whom Lucy will recollect as the pretty curlyhead little boy has gone to a new private school in a private house near my school; his mother said, not because she did not like my school, but because they were all small ones and but few of them: had three new ones last week, one is a boy 9 years old will be rather troublesome I expect, but I shall charge $3,00 for him; the two girls are 10 and 4: my school is so far rather easier and pleasanter than before vacation & less in number by three or four: Mary Plummer is only coming to the end of the term or only forenoons afterwards because she is taking lessons in music and wants time to practice; she is qualifying herself for a teacher, and I suppose will ere long be a competitor with I really wish Lucy could come as soon as her school closes; it would be such a good thing for her and my

school too. In order to get a good living here, I must keep up the reputation of my school, and there is so much to do with the French, History drawing Paintings besides all the little ones to drill; that without help, I cannot do any thing more than common, nor even that.

Mr Carpenter of Dexter preached this forenoon, - is to deliver ~~a~~ discourse of the death of Tousey this eve. ~~A~~ letter to the church from Mr. Pomroy was read to day dated at Jerusalem where he had been a fortnight: he was 16 days going from Beyroot to Jerusalem over land sleeping in tents, - 3 other gentlemen with him he described the view from one of the mountains as the most grand and beautiful he ever saw or ~~ever~~ expects (e expects to) he appears to be much gratified & interested with his tour in Palestine, says of his whole journey that he has accomplished more than he expected: he expects to reach home in the month of Aug., says it seems to him that he has been gone years. I have just returned from meeting; - very crowded; - Mr. Carpenter did nobly our Quondam preacher James was invited into the pulpit, not to speak, but for the honour of sitting with the ministers and to shew respect to our black bruder! —

I have made out the bills for those scholars who have just left, and shall soon receive some money; shall I send some to Charles, or what shall I do with it?

Mrs. Billingtons bonnet will be ready to go by the stage Wednes. June 17th: [illegible] [illegible] ~~[illegible]~~ and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

the ~~[illegible] would [illegible]~~ want any — mine are just [illegible]
~~[illegible] new [illegible] + will~~ do without them and put the , [illegible]
in ~~my pocket, she need not know it that you bought me~~
~~for her bonnet: I can take the, 25 from the amount~~
~~of your eggs and she pay you the money~~; if she wants
a lining she must send word immed, but folds are worn
most without lining, I have not seen [illegible] these
[illegible] days! — Isaac carried home the money
for the eggs. so I have only the, to Mrs. Billington gave
me to pay for the bonnet: I have concluded to get neith
er folds nor lining) unless she sends word and (means, to
get it: [illegible] they will not take at all: if it was
plain shell they would. — I will get you a dress like this,
in two or three weeks. — Joseph has about making a trade
with a painter to take a cow and paint the house, but
I suppose he will ask more for his job than [illegible]
and C. will want more for his cow than for cash in
hand, so between the two, it will be a bad bargain
for me: Abby Foss is staying several weeks at Prof.
Pond's taking lessons of Mr. Hadly a cousin of Mr.
Maltby's and famous teacher of music: I called upon
her yesterday: I have been at my new boarding place
two days, like very well: my chamber is retired, with
two large pleasant windows, but small, and have
to go up the back stairs to get to it: have tried hard to
get Joseph to leave the store early enough this eve, to
walk with me to [illegible] hope he will, but he
is too incorrigible about taking recreation. I mean to try
to have some sort of a [illegible], and ride out of town to
Durham or somewhere [illegible] if I can make J. and C. go:

Joseph can much better afford to spend a little money once in a while in riding than lose his health & with all power to enjoy any thing.-

A piece of my [illegible]

[illegible]

E. A. Moor[?] Bangor
June 7 '46

[illegible]

Elyria May 19th 1851

Dear brother

Yours was received in good time some two or three weeks since. I have waited before answering it, till I should be able to inform you of the safe arrival here of Isaac & family. They came just a week ago to night, having spent the Sabbath previous in St Louis, and a day [in] Chicago. Antoinette stood the journey quite comfortably and the baby wonderfully well. He is a little beauty of a baby, apparently very healthy. They left us Mond. evening, I was sorry to have their visit so short, but could not say a word because Isaac will have barely time to go to Maine and get back in time. We have deferred our journey till the last of June or first week of July because the children have caught the measles. Hattie is now sick with them & Libby will take them from her so it will be three or four weeks, perhaps longer, before they get well over them. I suppose you ~~start~~ for home about the first of next month. We want you to stop here on your way home by all means. I want you should see our home in the bloom and beauty of spring; we shall not be gone as we have expected but shall be [illegible] and right glad to see you: if you conclude to take this route you will of course stop

even if you have to make your stay short.—

I received a letter from Mother to day. she writes that she can see some snow yet from the window, that she wants you to get home soon. She said nothing about the children so of course there is nothing special to say about them. You doubtless hear very often of Milo affairs so I need not repeat the news of the place. I received a good long letter from Mrs. Rider & Almeda together, nearly two weeks ago. It was dated 13th of April & then no bare ground was to be seen.—

We are having a partition taken down to enlarge our dining room — the middle room as you recollect — joiners & plasterers are at work & the house turned topsy-turvy but they will be through now in a few days and we shall find the alteration a great improvement.

It is growing late so I will stop scribbling hoping to see you before many weeks

Your affectionate sister Anna

Elysian Jan. 23/66.

Dear Aunt Esther

I have thought of writing to you often during these years that have passed since you and I have met, but from various causes, I have suffered the purpose and wish to do so, to remain unfulfilled. Now my letter bears heavy tidings, which I suppose have reached you already by letter from brother Isaac. The death of mother is a sudden and most afflictive blow to us; we looked not for it, — we hoped she might live yet for years to come: her constitution was naturally firm, and her health generally good. especially, she was active and engaged in all the affairs of life, full of works of use and benefit ~~to~~ others, taking her share in life's enjoyments, and its burden. in

soon? Please remember me with much regard to Uncle Williams. I desire to be remembered to all the friends there; With much love my dear Aunt I remain your affectionate niece
Anna E. DeWitt.

filling her place and sphere most fully. She was full of interest in respect to all the important questions of our times, especially, in every thing relating to matters of religious interest, she loved the cause of Christ – she was ready to make effort, or exert her influence for the progress of religion. Dear aunt, I wish I could see you and talk with you about mother, her beautiful example, in all that pertains to the christian life, – She was enabled to give a bright and clear testimony to the value and blessedness of religion even to her dying moments. – it was just before she breathed her last, that she said, "It is all right". – expressions of praise and of prayer were on her lips much, during the last day, and sometimes, when apparently sleeping or dreaming. I think, judging from expressions that I recollect from her, that she had a prevailing feeling for some time past, that she was near the end of her journey, and she looked forward to its close, without fear or dread; she

expressed to me her earnest wish that she might not live to be an invalid or helpless, she had a great desire that she might be useful while she lived".

She has been taken from us in the midst of her usefulness while all her powers of mind were in full vigor; she was the honored head of all our households.

In the midst of our sorrow, we have much to be grateful for - that her sufferings were short, and she was so supported in the trying hour shewing such cheerful trust and firm reliance on her Savior: She was happy in having so many of her children with her (all were here except Almeda) with their families: she rejoiced greatly too, that brother Charles, after long holding back, had come out decidedly, and was a candidate for admission to the church - he united the Sunday after her death.

Thanks to God that He gave us such a mother, that He spared her to us so long, for the example she has left us, for the precious memory of her words of counsel and her dying trust. In a late letter

to Almeda, mother wrote, "I would not choose, if I could, the time or manner of my death, & though I do not know how much I should shrink with dread, yet it seems to me, that "to be absent from the body is far better" I have a hope and trust in Christ, that I shall see Him as He is, and be with him where he is!"

Mother had lived in Elyria but six years and mingled little with the world but the savor of her christian influence was felt by not a few, - she was much known and very highly respected.

Four families of her children are at present residents of this place, - brother Elias's family board with me this winter and it is yet uncertain where they will be settled; it is very pleasant for us to be together, such a happy group of family friends, brother Charles is only a mile from town; he is pleasantly situated & thinks himself benefitted by his removal to this place. Mr. & Mrs. Haldeman (cousin Abby) were over to the funeral, - he is stationed now in the next town to us eight miles away. I should be very glad to receive a letter from you. - Will you not write me

Elyria, O. January 23, 1866.

Dear aunt Esther : (Williams)

I have thought of writing to you often during these years that have passed since you ad I have met, but from various causes I have suffered the purpose and wish to do so to remain unfulfilled. Now my letter bears heavy tidings, which I suppose have reached you already by letter from brother Isaac. The death of Mother is a sudden and most afflictive blow to us ; we looked not for it - we hoped she might live yet for years to come : her constitution was naturally firm and her health generally good especially she was active and engaged in all the affairs of life, full of works of use and benefits to others, taking her share in life's enjoyments and its burdens too, filling her place and sphere most fully. She was full of interest in respect of all important questions of our time, especially in everything relating to matters of religious interest. She loved the cause of Christ. She was ready to make effort or exert her influence for the progress of religion.

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She hasbeen taken from us in the midst of her usefulness while all her powers of mind were in full vigor. She was the honored head of all our households. In the midst of our sorrow, we have much to be greatful for that her sufferings were short and she was so supported in the trying hour showing such cheerful trust and firm reliance on her saviour. She was happy in having so many of her childre with her (All were here except Almeda) with their families. She rejoiced greatly, too, that brother Charles after long holding back, had come out decidedly and was a candidate for admission to the Church He united the Sunday after her death. Thanks to God that he gave us such a mother ; that he spared her to us so long ; for the example she has left us, for the precious memory of her words of council and her dying trust. In a late letter to Almeda mother wrote," I would not chose if I could the time or manner of my death and though I do not know how much I should shrink with dread yet it seems to me that to be absent from the body is far better. I have a hope and trust in Christ that I shall see him as he is and be with him where he is." Mother had lived in Elyria but six years andmingled little with the world but the savor of her Christian influence was felt by not a few. She was much known and very highly respected.

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now in the next town to us eight miles away.

I shouldbe very glad to receive a letter from you. Will you not write me soon. Please remmember me with much regard to uncle Williams I desire to be remembered to all the friands there. With much love, my dear aunt, I remain

Yours affectionate neice,
Anna E.DeWitt.

Elyria Ohio Jan 2d 1866

My dear Aunt, I have sad news to write. Our dear mother, your sister, has left us. She was taken sick Saturday night Dec 23 and died this forenoon between nine and ten oclock. She suffered a good deal during nine days with severe cough and pain in the side but her end was entirely easy. Doctor called it Lung Fever and from the first gave little encouragement to hope for her recovery. Mother was indeed ripe for heaven and our so great loss, we know is to her an exceeding great gain. While we sorrow for the lack of her society and her counsels here and her earthly love, we can but rejoice for her transition to glory. Mother spoke frequently of her "Two Dear Sisters" in old Warwick. You were evidently among her last thoughts. She has often wished to visit you once more. We have all been sorry she did not the last time she was in Maine. But it makes no difference now. You will soon meet where partings are no more forever.

It has been great comfort to us, as it was great pleasure to Mother that my brothers are both here this winter. Charles you know moved out here with his family a year since, and now lives on his new farm less than a mile out of the village from here. Eliah came out here with his whole family in October to spend the winter. And they could both, as well as sister Anna, be with Mother much of the time during her sickness. Mother has enjoyed very much having her grand children about her. Charles, Eliah, and I, you know, have each five children here. The fifteen (or 16 including Lizzie DeWitt, Anna's youngest step-daughter. Hattie the elder was married last Spring) made quite a company of young folks and were a great pleasure to Mother. Mother's health has been very good in Ohio tho' we could see that her strength had failed some during the past year. Still she was in the frequent habit of walking between my house and Anna's, about half a mile, and would have done so the day she was taken sick if the walks had not been very slippery with ice. I wish we could see you and talk with you and tell you many things about Mother's last days. Perhaps we may sometime. Most sincerely Your loving neph... Isaac B Metcalf

[illegible] Oct. 18[illegible]

Dear [illegible]

I [illegible] my letter did not reach you before [illegible] returned as [illegible] you will probably have [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] things however I forgot to mention those I want — my flannel under[illegible] I suppose I ought to have [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] equal to twenty days, if it is a trifling too short, I am quite willing to change my winter [illegible] [illegible] if she has not spirit [illegible], by [illegible] of the [illegible] mine, she can [illegible] make long enough, by piecing it on ½ not [illegible], and yet I shall be obliged to use mine quite soon now it will not make much difference with one which I have.

If you conclude to change, send it down as soon as convenient, without doing any thing to the [illegible], as if you should attempt to make it for me, it might not be the right length; so. I wish you would send [illegible] [illegible] with Questions, if you have not. Elias has some things for me, my workbox &c. that I have not yet been able to get, and that book may be among them. I think it possible I may have a [illegible] in it & I should like, too, the Universal Preceptor, a small old book somewhere at home.

I have seen a joiner who I suppose could build the schoolhouse if we want him; his estimate of the expense is $172, — I expect work of the kind is rather unusually high, it seems as if Evans & [illegible] might do it at less expense if they work it right: it is a great pity it could not have been doing these two last pleasant weeks of warm dry weather, I should think it worth while to make an effort to do it soon rather than to do it in cold winter snowy & blowy weather. — We have heard from Uncle J. and the money is coming in a week or two. By help of that, [illegible] it seems to me we might get trusted for materials in part, and use the $50, for what is necessary: I want E. should act with decision &

[illegible] in this matter and we can [illegible] to calculate [illegible] too large and expensive a one; if it [illegible], we'd not be required to have [illegible] accommodations for a school of this kind, and we shall find it hard enough to find funds for an ordinary one. I have not any money to get a muff with and [illegible] one [illegible] my [illegible] bills [illegible], I [illegible] a good one. I don't know how I shall manage about a cloak but am pretty sure I cannot very decently get along without one. — — — —

Mr. C. W. Bir[illegible]
Milo Me.

Ans'd
Feb. 1845
Bangor

[illegible] went directly to Mr. Sylvester's [illegible] I have not gone yet — had partly engaged another place for myself at Dr Deanes (she is sister to Mr. Chandler of Foxcroft) a much more eligible place for me than Mr. S's probably a little higher board — don't know what I shall do yet.

Tell Almeda I cannot buy a trunk this [illegible] and [illegible] pay for [illegible] what she says, my old red striped calico would make [illegible] a good dress and she can have that if she wants

I want you should write very soon all your conclusions advice &c &c.

Ann.

Racine Oct. 24th [illegible]

Dear Sister and brother [illegible],

I arrived here night before last, wrote a letter of five pages to Mother yesterday, & improve this next moment writing to you. This must travel 1700 miles to reach you, which it will do if prospered in a fortnight so I shall have to wait a month before hearing from any of you which will seem very long. You see by my date that I am at Racine, ^Wisconsin^ on the western shore of Lake Michigan.

It is a pretty village, or ^in Wisconsin a city^ scarcely ten years old, contains now five or six thousand inhabitants and is rapidly increasing: it stands on a bluff 40 or 50 ft. above the lake to which it slopes down at one end, it looks really pleasant and is called healthy.

I am situated in the family of the Presbyterian minister, Mr. Hopkins whose wife has a school of young ladies, 60 pupils at present, the seminary just across the street is commodious, contains four rooms and there is to be the scene of my labours: Mrs. Hopkins does not teach many of the higher branches, expects me to, while she has the main responsibility of the school & spends all her time in it: her husband has been settled as pastor three years she commenced a school when they first came, at the solicitation of a few pious persons, in order that the business of education [illegible] might be in the hands of Christian teachers, — has had to struggle with difficulties, [illegible] afford to pay a very large salary at present, but the Committee consider it a very important point to make and retain a stand here in Christian influence. There are residents here from six or seven different nations of Europe besides different parts of the [illegible] [illegible] from [illegible]

Mr. Hopkins originated from [illegible] but was [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

my situation pleasant [illegible]

The family consists of two daughters one 1[illegible], the other [illegible] years old. The house is a pretty cottage, carpetted all over, [illegible], ~~and~~ some trees around it, a garden, and from the [illegible] of the house is seen the broad expanse of the lake with [illegible] and [illegible]. I have a comfortable little chamber [illegible] of two drawers in a bureau and a large closet: the house is neat, the table plain but good: an elderly woman [illegible] takes the [illegible] and [illegible] young friend [illegible] the [illegible] with [illegible] a [illegible]: all sit at the same table and apparently a pleasant family:— this is my second day here, and [illegible] tell you [illegible] more [illegible] of my situation and prospects:

I received your letter most gladly, but not [illegible] day [illegible] I left Hartford, one from Mother and one from [illegible] that same day. I had the pleasure too of reading a letter from [illegible] to the [illegible] very well written, quite [illegible] and kindly — written on my behalf to secure me a good place. [illegible]

There were all sorts of [illegible] at Hartford, time closely occupied; — Miss [illegible] in the house with us giving us lessons [illegible] advice, she was [illegible] of the class [illegible] every [illegible] book [illegible]. I have really become quite attached to some of the girls of the class [illegible] I had good [illegible] from [illegible] N. York, an adopted daughter of Prof. [illegible], and engaged to a student in that university, [illegible] and of [illegible] character [illegible] two years, [illegible] and [illegible] morning, she has gone [illegible]; another girl from Pittsburgh, engaged to a merchant, had a [illegible] high [illegible] when she [illegible] one of the [illegible] and [illegible] 2[illegible] [illegible] I was most [illegible]

My journey here was truly delightful, we rested on the way enough to prevent being fatigued, — I must give you an account of it. Friday morn 6½ on the 11th, with satchels on our arms, we began our march out into the world (i.e.) we walked, 24 of us from the Orphan Asylum, our place of residence in Trait[illegible] to the cars nearly a mile — our baggage was carried the day previous: — at the cars we were joined by Gov. Slade and we were soon flying away from home and friends, ere long among the barren hills of Berkshire Co., then across the line, and we had left dear New Eng. behind: we passed in sight of Kinderhook residence of Van Buren, — over a gently rolling, pleasant looking country, with great heaps of apples under the trees, reached Albany at one o'clock, crossed Hudson river by a ferry, and marched with Gov. Slade at our head to Delavan House, (only a rod or two) the best hotel in the city: every thing in elegant style, two long tables, more than a hundred seated a score of black waiters, silver forks, — every variety of dish for dessert, delicious pears, grapes, ice cream &c. our escort had business in the city so we staid to dinner and tea, & three or four of us rambled about to see the city, went into the State House, Senate chamber and Historical room where we saw fine pictures and statues. At 7 o'clock P.M. we started again, rode all night, we had a car to ourselves, highbacked cushioned seats comfortable for sleeping. I [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] by the side of [illegible] which made some merriment among the girls: — he is one of the best [illegible] he could not have been more kind and truly [illegible] than he was [illegible] we travelled 200 miles that night over a beautiful country by the side of the Mohawk. [illegible] glimpses by moonlight as I waked from my short naps from time to time: — at 5 A.M. we reached Syracuse — a city numbering 20 thousand [illegible] we were conducted to a hot[el] [illegible] city [illegible]

we had but an hour more or so to enjoy it when we went whizzing along the road to ~~Buffalo~~ Rochester; we passed many fine villages, several large lakes, Auburn State Prison & Salina salt works, & arrived at Rochester about one, and by a previous arrangement and invitation on their part, were distributed two and two, among different families — the first in the place — and there we were entertained four days, over the Sabbath — and a delightful time we all had: it fell to my lot to go to a Mr [illegible] editor of a daily paper — very excellent people — he had a very handsome library; in the garden was a quantity of grapes growing, with which I often regaled myself.

Rochester contains from 30 to 40,000 people, has a handsome & business like appearance, it is on Genesee river six miles from lake Ontario: there are several handsome bridges; I saw a canal boat come under a bridge that crosses the canal; one poor horse was dragging a large heavy laden boat slowly along: a little below the city are the falls; ~~the~~ water falls over a perpendicular, semicircular ledge, about 80 feet deep, and the banks for some extent are nearly that height; on one bank is an open square where visitors go to see the falls; on the other, a long row of flour mills by water. Monday noon we set out again for Buffalo, arriving at night, but not in season to take the boat for the lake, so we had the pleasure of staying at the city hotel till the next night: we enjoyed the eve in a parlour by ourselves Gov. Slade read and prayed with us. — the next morning he returned east on his agency, and we saw his face no more! Nearly half our company took a boat in the morning, for Sandusky to go the southern route by Cincinnati. — the rest of us stayed till night before embarking on our longer voyage: the day I spent at Buffalo I wrote and mailed a letter to Isaac and to Mrs. [illegible]. I had time to go to Niagara & I may be sorry I did not; it would have cost but 15 [illegible] but I had no one to go with me and the weather was inclement; Buffalo is larger than [illegible] Rochester

[illegible] but I did not see it much [illegible] we went on board the [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] around the

5th page

I dreaded this part of the journey much, expected to be very sick and have a tedious time, but it was not so; the boat was as handsomely fitted and furnished as the "Empire of Maine"; a long wide saloon with a piano in one end and state rooms opening out of it all along. my chum and I had a nice large clean state room to which we had the keys the water was very smooth I read and two books through enjoyed myself did not ~~lose~~ a meal till the last day — the tables took up both saloon, and excellent fare we had, nuts, apples as large as my two hands, ice cream &c. after dinner every day some ~~one~~ would play the piano, the two last evenings a German emigrant was found, deck passenger, who drew forth fine tones from the piano, and there was dancing till quite late; there were five or six whole families removing to Wisconsin, besides many foreign emigrants; we were five days on the passage, kept the same boat, Captain very kind and attentive, stopped in St Clair river to take in coal, and I went on shore in Michigan walked to a house, — had a bouquet of flowers given me — we ~~pass~~ at Detroit at night only so I did not see it but the fort at the straits of Mackinaw I had opportunity to see which was a great gratification. It is built on an island on a very steep high bluff; the boat stopped an hour & most of the passengers went up into the fort; it is in complete repair, occupied by a small garrison, & overlook

the pretty little town of Mackinaw, ~~lying~~ on the beach at its foot, very compact, not half a mile in extent, it is supported by fisheries and chance trade with vessels; some very large trouts were brought to the boat; the Indians about that regions were in the town that day to receive their annuities, some had their faces painted many wore blankets and in the shops were many Indian curiosities. the last day (Sunday) it was rough I was quite sick — did not seem at all like Sabbath; arrived at Racine just as mine host was going to evening meeting; was received very cordially; one of the other teachers going back from here 40 miles, — stopped with me stays two days waiting for the stage: she goes tomorrow morning, so I have not been left alone till I have time to get a little acquainted

Went into school to day I think I shall find myself pleasantly situated; took a walk to the bank of the lake it is a lovely spot here, large oak trees scattered about, back of the city is a fine growth of timber, and three miles back of that, a beautiful rolling prairie dotted here and there with houses and clumps of trees. This family have not had the fever & ague at all and say [illegible] so. It will be a little [illegible] lonely [illegible] at first, but glad I have come, have no doubt I shall be able to do more good than [illegible] time; it is said and pleasantly with truth, that a judicious Christian teacher can do more good than the home missionary, having access to the minds of youth while prejudice [illegible] I am resolved to keep my firm heart not to let my thoughts dwell too much on home for that makes the tears flow: — do write as soon as you get this: at the best it will be nearly a month before I can hear; I want you should all write some to me in the same letter: much love to all — Ann.

Westfield
Jan. 28, 1851

Westfield Jan 28th 51

To all the dear folks

The first week of school is past — rather a trying week. I begin to feel at home a little in school. Every thing is more favorable than I expected. My prospects [illegible] [illegible] I [illegible] particular account of [illegible] [illegible]; the sleigh ride here was somewhat tedious — a great deal of snow had fallen with [illegible] many previous frost in the ground and warm weather coming it had broken up so that the travelling was very bad. — the road is a great thoroughfare leading to all the cities on the south side of the lake. four loaded stages came with passengers starting out from Buffalo on runners, but in a few miles taken to coaches — the horses walked almost every step of the way and we rode steady from nine o'clock Wednes. morn till 5 o. next morn at which time we reached Westfield. I was weary enough but happily there was a vacation of a week in the school because I was a week late and I had from Thurs. till the next Mond. to rest. I came right to Mr. Ramsey's told them to tell nobody I had come the first day so that I could rest. — The next day I received a call from the Principal Mr. Pillsbury and one of the Trustees Mr. [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] last year being one of them: he resides here has a daughter in school. Mr. Pillsbury made it easy for me [illegible] [illegible]

Dear Mother write me a good long letter — Lucy I know will not forget me — [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] James [illegible] [illegible]

the business of classing upon [illegible] there [illegible] whole forenoon in my room [illegible] to select the classes I would like so I told him I would like to give up to him Algebra & [illegible] not having had that department for some [illegible] my indifferent knowledge of Here Translate had been crowded out by other pursuits — I did not feel prepared to advance a class &c. — I have Ancient History, Rhetoric, Analysis, Arithmetic, Grammar. there are one hundred scholars in both rooms besides about [illegible] juveniles. I have forty five young ladies [illegible] or eight under twelve years of age [illegible] two; Mr. C. and myself hear classes at the same time each composed of scholars from both rooms so that in almost every class I have a long row of tall young gentlemen to catechise which I like [illegible] the plan. — The school has been under good regulations, — the teacher left to accept a good situation as teacher in Arkansas [illegible] my [illegible] to the Nursery — the girls mentioned me [illegible] the brother went to see the trustees and wrote other applications were made [illegible] they did not expect me any sooner, knowing [illegible] notice was short. It seems just the situation for me if I can only succeed in giving satisfaction in which my efforts will not be wanting. Mr. [illegible] lives over half a mile from the Academy [illegible] I thought I could not board here Mr. C. [illegible]

[illegible] is not much in favor of [illegible] boarders but the girls ("put in" and his wife" [illegible] and he consented which I am told is a great compliment to me arguing that he has rather a fancy to me. I like to board here because I feel so much at home, can do as I please, throw off all restraint, sit with the family, or have a chamber warm to be alone in, have no scholars to watch me or parents either, quite different from the surveillance I was under at Racine— Mr. Rumsey says, [illegible] [illegible] my or [illegible] [illegible] he has a [illegible] and a horse." they are really good sort of folks — the elder man with his nephew has just purchased a dock for forwarding business, for eight thousand dollars. two thousand to pay down. — the younger bought a farm a year ago, for 3000. — the two railroads from Erie to Buffalo and Erie to New York cut it in two parts and including the damages he says he can sell it and nett 2000: also that it has yielded him 10 per cent the last year,

The school is, so far pleasant. Every Wednes— which is considered the beginning of the week, — all recitations are suspended the forenoon is spent in reading the Bible and practising selections to read in public in the afternoon when both departments are called together (for the only time); when the young ladies stand out in the floor in small classes, & all read their compositions, [illegible], selections in reading [illegible]

[illegible]

of the young gentlemen, who also read their productions and declaim on the stand before the young ladies a great time I can assure you. I have nothing to do on that afternoon but sit down, and look and listen.

There is a most excellent minister here Mr. Tinker a missionary some years in the Sandwich Islands. a good preacher a very devoted man there is a good tone of religious feeling here: prayer meetings in different places, four evenings in the week.

My board is $1.75 washing & ironing alone; living good as I want. I have but one hour intermission, stop at noon, and keep all day every other Saturday, according to the custom in these parts. I have neither French nor Drawing in school but shall probably have the former next term. I have begun to realise that I am again away from you all, and alone, do write to me much and often. I have worried some about the bonnets at Mrs. Jordan's fear they will not suit, if Almeda had written a note to Mrs. J. it would have been better, the charge would have been less, - I did not see her. write particularly about all the things: I feel bad not to wear mourning though I know it is best as it is - the dear brother is gone - his place is no more on earth, - how much I would give to spend one more day with him such as I did spend in that brief, happy fortnight I was at home. I want to hear from you all very much, how Lucy gets along, whether Eliab's lameness is better, whether Isaac is at Milo and about his prospects, and about Almeda and all the little folks.

I think I have great reason to be thankful for the favorable and pleasant circumstances in which I find myself. So wonderful are the ways of Providence My confident expectations of happy enjoyment at home have been dashed, but I am provided for beyond my hopes in respect to schools.

Dunkirk

Aug. 2 1851

Dunkirk Aug. 2d /51

Dear Mother. Sister, brothers

I am homeward bound; i.e. on my way to Westfield my temporary home, though fifteen miles east of it, at the terminus of the N York & E. Railroad. I must wait half a day for a boat, so will improve the time writing to you

I went to Zanesville three weeks ago, left that place on my return, night before last, in company with the Principal of the Seminary there, and his wife with whom I got acquainted there, — this has made the journey very pleasant — the first night the stage house was so crowded that I had to occupy the same chamber with these — two beds: it was new experience for me though they seemed to think nothing of it. I enjoyed my visit to Zanesville very much. The people are Southern in their cordiality, and ready warmth of manner to strangers, very social and pleasant, unlike the stiff and stately reserve of most New Englanders, though most I saw there were originally from Yankee land. The city is on the east side of Muskingum, about ten thousand inhabitants, compactly built, looking timeworn, not so much from the effect of age, as dingy with coalsmoke and dust and soot, which penetrates every where, blackening paint, paper clothes, complexions; the little particles of soot falling upon every thing, when windows are open. Bituminous coal abounds in the vicinity and is the sole article of fuel.

I ceased to feel this annoyance after a day or two, the people were so agreable and I passed my time so pleasantly; the view of the country around in every direction is delightfull, little

hills covered with groves of oak, hickory and elm, the trees grouped a few together or far apart, very large; the ground under them smooth as the grass plat of a door yard; the slopes and level fields look so finely, loaded with their heavy crops of grain and corn:– every thing around betokens wealth and plenty. Jerusha (Mrs. Clark) is well situated, her husband is evidently well off, has a lumber yard now, formerly a carpenter,– is building a handsome house on a farm one mile from the city, intending to move there after it is completed, and sell his house in town: I like his appearance well,– the land on his farm is worth eight hundred dollars an acre in coal, exclusive of the fine soil for cultivation. He had five children when Jerusha married him, she has had four in the five years she has been married; buried one; her oldest little girl looks some as aunt Williams did, her boy much like the Williams'; in all she has six girls and two boys, oldest 16, the youngest three months.

Jerusha has the same meek, mild, and quiet way, but energetic and systematic: She is certainly a superior woman, I enjoyed much more in intercourse with her than I anticipated, she seems to be liberal in views, open hearted, certainly, appears sincere as well as affectionate. She as well as Abby and Lucy did every thing to make my visit pleasant.

Abby (Mrs. Haldeman) moved to Z. last fall, he is getting into practice some, is derived from the Dutch,– a good man with education, but not intelligence in general, or liberal views: he is seven years younger than she is: they are

so that I is full of ... and handsome as ever.

poor, have lived in many different places, have but one child, a girl seven years old: she has buried three. She seems very much like the Stevens, looks like Aunt Conant and you, has lost her teeth and looks old; she is good as she can be, but no faculty for housekeeping — to make much out of a little so necessary for a poor physician's wife: I did not eat a decent meal there, in appearance not even a neat one. She shewed me a piece of her poetry in the paper, so I cut it out, told her I would send it to you; it does not do her much credit however.

Lucy is teaching, has one room in a large Union school for boys, (in her room) (small), receives 50$ per quarter, boards at Jerushas'. She has very agreeable manners, attracts much attention from Gentlemen, has as perfect form and figure as I ever saw. She does not look old, ~~for~~ ~~face~~ is handsome. To her affair with Baldwin she does not allude, has not at all to her sisters; says she shall never marry. says there are few girls great enough to be old maids; she is fond of the society of gentlemen in a general, social way, makes herself very agreeable, more natural easy and pretty than Lizzie see I think, seems to be a favourite, and her acquaintance seem to be of a good class. Of the three weeks I was there, but two evenings except Sundays, passed without calls and visits from gentlemen, alone or in company with ladies, or that we did not go out. We had two skiff rides up the Muskingum, by (delightful) moonlight, Lucy and I and two gentleman — and two walks on neighbouring hills. One of Lucy's cronies, a sort of beau general, intelligent, & pleasing, a Baptist professor, ~~lawyer~~, son of a senator, was in more than half the evenings I was there, read loud to us four evenings, in a new book

so fixed very new black with marks which, at Zanesville, and burned my fingers. S. i. K.
so that it is just as bright and handsome as one.

I received a letter from Isaac, last Mond. dated from the south western part of Illinois. he told no particulars about his situation as to pecuniary matters; he is out of the world in respect to comforts and society, had not received my last letter written four or five weeks ago, nor heard from any of you since may; doubtless you hear from him; A young lady went from Westfield to Arkansas, got no letters from her friends for three months, while they heard regularly from her. I feel anxious about him it is a sickly climate, now more than usual on account of the inundation of the rivers leaving stagnant water. Lizzie Doe is not very happy; her brother has been sick is not very comfortably situated she is pretty nearly homesick. — perhaps will return this fall.

My vacation is well nigh past, I must begin to turn my attention towards school again. I dread next term; it will be much harder than the last; more scholars; I dread commencing with the two new gentlemen teachers, I feel an insecurity about my situation; there is so much divided feeling, and counterworking, interested managing, as shown in the circumstances of Mr. Pilsbury's leaving. School commences next Wednes. Lucy's last letter was received just before I left Westfield: I want very much to hear again soon hope there is a letter waiting for me at Westfield. I forgot to say that when I started for Zanesville Mr. Rumsey went on board with me introduced me to the captain as a member of his family, and in consequence I went 'dead-head' to Cleveland saving me $2.50 or 3.00: As Mr. Rumsey owns the dock, his family go there all around free. Coming back I had to take a boat to this place fifteen miles too far, and take another boat back, making it more expensive. My journey to Zanesville has cost me about twenty dollars; fifteen, deducting my board of three weeks. I have not heard from Elias for a long time, nor from the rest of you so particularly as I want to. in haste Anna.

I carried them, which he wished to read before I left — Prof. Guyot's 'Earth and Man'; — altogether, I spent my time very agreeably, seem to get more acquainted with some there, than I am with any in Westfield out of the family where I board. The peculiarities of talking of the Buckeyes, is rather amusing to an uninitiated ear; the children old and young instead of father say 'pap'! and the people all use 'like' for 'as', — 'you don't speak like we do' or — 'we must speak the words in singing like we do in talking' and so on in all cases. Abby and Jerusha have both got in the habit of it.

Westfield
Nov. 22
1851

Westfield

Dear brother and Sister

As Thanksgiving is near at hand the special time for family gatherings I have been thinking this evening that I should like very much to step in and see you, and as to do so by my bodily presence seems to be impracticable if not impossible, I must content myself with sending instead this silent, yet speaking, winged messenger; to say how do you do? how have you fared? and how do times go with you? How is little Charlie. Does he dress in pants yet? I do n't approve at all of his picking up six bushels of potatoes, it is not the kind of exercise suited to his age, if you suffer him to travel over the farm with you and help, praising him for so doing thereby stimulating him to exertion though he may grow up healthy enough and quite useful to you you will cause him to be a stunted clumsy, thickset, boorish youth, a

I send you some seeds of the Cucumber tree, which grows large with very large broad leaves bearing a large handsome blossom in spring and in early autumn a fruit the size and shape of a small cucumber thickly filled with these bright red seeds giving the tree a fine appearance two large trees are on the green in front of the Academy; native to the soil. In Zanesville the streets are shaded with [illegible] and the 'Tree of Heaven' a tree much like the Sumac only very large & lofty.

caring for nothing but 'Hans Laid' &c.
instead of a tall, well-shapen personable
young man intelligent, cultivated as well
as active, an honour and comfort to his re-
lations in general and his aunt Anna in
particular: I think his future welfare morally
as well as physically, requires that he should
be accustomed to staying in the house some,
learn to wait upon his mother and assist in
taking care of his little brother: Parents like
to have their children goodlooking and chil-
dren themselves think it a matter of some con-
sequence to them:- it is my opinion that it is
a duty in training children, to ~~endeavour to~~ think of
(as subordinate indeed), but yet as desirable,
a good personal appearance in form, com-
plexion &c. to secure which, it seems to me,
nothing would be more unlikely than
exposure at the tender age of three or four
to all degrees of sunshine, heat, cold, wind
especially the protracted use of the muscles
in one continuous movement, or of ~~one~~ set of

* The highest town officer is supervisor and instead of representation I favour of the Assembly man sent from several united towns.

muscles ~~to~~ is contrary to the free, and infinite-
ly varied motions of the healthy child; in short
it seems to me highly desirable ~~to~~ bring up
children to industrious habits but not till a
suitable age to begin lest the child in being de-
prived of his *childish nature*, should fail in
becoming the *real* man.

Mr. Allen with whom I board is a broken down
merchant, had once some property, but seems
not to have much business talent; lives by taking
boarders and with the aid of his boy makes a few
cultivators to sell is I judge rather slack, for
he has no woodshed, he has little wood cut up
beforehand, and he left his pumpkins out in
the garden close by the house till frost came,
but he is really good and kind. they have five
children all go to the Academy most of the time,

I am very comfortably and pleasantly situa-
ted as to board, having a pleasant chamber
and bedroom opening out of it, a very good
stove, in which the fire kindles quick yet will keep
all night. wood is two dolls. per cord. it is brought

up into our room for us but my board costs nearly half a dollar a week more than last summer which will make some difference in my funds in the course of the winter.

I enjoy much however my independent way of living having no more to do with the family than if in a hotel. The farmers about here grow rich and they do so by raising cattle and sheep and making butter and cheese more than by the hard labor of tilling the ground and selling grain. I should suppose you might turn your farm more into pasture and either sell beef at Dover &c. or drive a 'drove' every fall to Bangor and take the money easier than to dig it out of the land. I see not why you and Almeda too might not make it profitable to make cheese extensively it would require as little outlay as any thing and could be kept until it could be marketted. I see not why you cannot lay up money by farming so as to live easy, paint and finish your house, put on blinds &c. as well as the men here grow rich who have not according to my knowledge any facilities that might not be made available there. Though this is a good country I like Maine better especially the climate. Please write me soon and express your opinion upon the thoughts I have broached and enlighten my ignorance thereupon if you are able. Affect'ly Sister Anna.

Elyria
Oct, 23 1854

Elyria Oct. 23/54.

It seems unnecessary to address separate letters to you that are all together so please to receive this as not only to you, dear mother, but as written also to the brothers and sisters. We were indeed very glad to receive yours & Lucy's of 14th inst. though much pained by the [illegible] news it contained.

We do both feel deeply for brother [illegible] as well as Almeda, it is truly a great trial, calling for much Christian faith and patience. I do not doubt they are supported by "Him who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities". We want to know more particularly of his situation whether he sits up is about the house [illegible] [illegible] the lip is healed which the doctor says takes place sometimes in a few days, when the parts are well brought together, but otherwise has to ulcerate & takes a much longer time. Do the other places cause pain & will they require an operation or does the removal of the one on the lip remove the disease. I suppose I cannot realize the affliction yet I can & do feel for them very much. I am not insensible to the blessing, the happiness unclouded by any trials, the earthly good of my present lot — so different from many from most, in this world of [illegible] [illegible] and pain, and with a grateful consciousness of these totally undeserved mercies I feel [illegible] a conviction that I

is nearly [illegible] [illegible] 7 [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

last page

She is older, has more just ideas of things & really has been making much effort to improve, I was much gratified to day by hearing that the older brothers think that a great improvement has been brought about in the two little girls the past year, a great & happy influence is attributed to me, which of course cannot fail to be pleasing to me. I wish you could peep in upon us in our bright cheerful room this evening, The doctor sits opposite me reading the N.Y. "daily Times" Hattie is practising, Libby studying, & Fanny in the corner rocking her boy to sleep. We are in our new, enlarged room; a large open grate in the fire place & the solar lamp light up the room most cheerfully and how I wish you could all of you step in this evening and see us.

Our grapes are gathered, a parcel put down in saw-dust, some made into preserves, and a few, reserved for eating. Tomorrow, Susan & I are going to make some quince marmalade, instead of preserve because it keeps better. I heard about a new book the other day from a young lady who is acquainted with the author, it was sent to the publisher (Derby & Co.) who said it was a work of merit, but not large enough, & requesting 100 pages more saying he was ready to stereotype as soon as that could be furnished; I should not think it a very small job to be required to sit down & write 100 pages to order. However the author did it, & the book is published [illegible] it be out. I hope I shall see it. We have two vols of Eddie's bound
[illegible]

I made 9 mistakes in this sheet but you can read it
so just as it happens in haste.
Aff'y daughter Anna

I'll write soon, love to all.

that I have not right to expect it will be always so nor when afflictions are sent ~~to~~ 'think it a strange thing':

I desire on my part, to rejoice with trembling and to live so as to be in some good measure prepared for whatever awaits me. I do not doubt but severe & 'fiery trials are often, to the Christian, made, through the power & love of Christ ~~great~~ blessings, even in this world. — We rejoice with you in dear little Percie's recovery: I have felt much anxiety — feared that each letter would bring sad news about him: his escape is a narrow one — I am glad Ellen is there yet hope she continues good. We are, & have been very well. I have been quite busy as usual, or rather, more than usual — have had company the last four or five weeks. Our son Dewees & wife have been with us two weeks. he has an admirable wife. about 22 — fine looking, sensible, intelligent, always gentle, placid and low-voiced, yet with much efficiency & strength of character. We think him rich in his companion: they have just lost their youngest, one year old — ~~the~~ other little one is here with them two & half years old; he is a sweet little fellow with eyes black & round, & bright as diamonds: his name is Elijah but is called Lido. The son Dewees, left home four years ago & has never been home until now. — ~~was~~ married the day he was 21; he has a good farm somewhat improved, on the prairie at Providence Bureau Co. where Lizzy Lon's brothers are; ~~and~~ Mr Thacher has

The Norton, Goodale & Libby families were all well. Tell Minnie I will write a letter.

bought a farm about three miles from there. They (i.e.) Lewis & Fanny have seen them a few times, they live in a poor log cabin a mile and a quarter from any neighbour: he has the reputation of being 'too nice' for a farmer out there; he had ~~a set of~~ some silver plate given him in Bangor worth two hundred & fifty dolls. to complete the set, he bought fifty dolls. worth more; was it not just like Charles's character? Their silver and other 'exquisites' decorate their log cabin on the lonely prairie! —They say they are very happy — they have taken a boy & a girl 12 or 14 years old from an Orphan Asylum in Chicago, to bring up. Miss Bright too, as near as I can find out has come to Providence to teach by Libby's means. Mr Thaxter has however a good farm in a good location and perhaps will do well: perhaps it is not best to tell the Bangor friends of Libby's present log-house experience, for only those who *know* about prairie life can estimate justly the scarcity of buildings. Hattie was much delighted with aunt Lucy's letter: many thanks on *my* part to her for taking time to think of her in the midst of her cares. Hattie writes so poor a hand that she says she is ashamed to answer it, but she will do so next Sat. when out of school: she has not not yet learned to write, has tried ~~but~~ a little at home, since her return from the East; I think I can see good, resulting to her from the journey

2d page

Lucy Hampden
Feb. 20 1850

Hampden Feb. 20th 1850.

Dear Mother

It is about two hours since you went away, - is'nt it time for me to begin a letter to you? You dont know how lonesome and deserted we look ~~and~~ feel here. But, Mother, how very thoughtful you was to take the pair of Spectacles you use most! Was'nt I vexed with myself when I found you had left one pair here? when you particularly desired me to remind you of them? And Joseph's meal - that was worse than all the rest. He'll have nothing to make bread of. I have put them all together in the firkin, as also the French Grammar - which I suppose he intended to take, - and his gun, which of course he will mourn after, if I do not send it! Guess I wont write any more now. Four o'clock P.M. What a long still time this has been! Two hours more before Johnny will make his appearance. I have got a tremendous cold - head ache - am so hoarse I can scarcely speak loud. My throat is exceeding sore - havent got a yarb of any kind in the house - thought I must do something, so I steeped some Flax seed and loaf sugar - guess I'll soak my feet tonight and be well in the morning. I fear you and Josie have both been cold today, it has been so windy, but I suppose you are safe home by this time, unless Josie had to stop to rest. Wish I could spend the evening with you all at home. I wish I had something more to write but believe I have not, so will put away my paper. Finished one of Isaac's shirts today, good night.

Feb. 22nd. Eleven o'clock, A. M. Sammy did come last night, and has gone to Bangor this morning. John said Walter Brown and Eliab passed him on his way home from school last night - he did not call here. I did soak my feet, drink flax seed tea and sweat vigorously, and last night Samuel brought me some slippery elm bark, but my cold and cough are yet pretty bad. He put out the clothes again this morning and they are flapping their wings in the wind as though they would fly soon. I have just finished the last of Isaac's shirts - They set well on Samuel & I guess he will like them - I reckon I had better keep a sort of journal for Joseph's pleasure and edification now adays. Won't you do so too Josie? When any thing transpires worth telling of, clap it on paper, together with your comments &c. and when a sheet is filled, send it along. Good bye for today.

25th Johnny went this morning - I intended to finish this to send by him, but was not well enough to write. 'Tis just as well though as Charles is coming down this week - Pa & Ma Tucker are coming down tomorrow, we expect, and as on that account John would have no horse ~~to~~ wherewith to transport them to Cedar Grove until they got home, I thought best to wait and send the meal & Spectacles by Charles. I never remember to have had so bad a cold since the time Angella Dennett administered "Poke root snuff!". Headache so bad I could scarcely open my eyes wide for three or four days. Saturday afternoon & Sunday Slept most all the time! Samuel and Jane did the work. Jane has been just as good as pie - kept every thing nice as a pin - took great pride in it you know. Yesterday she baked a Turkey, cooked potatoes & Onions, and made

coffee for dinner - got them all on to the table in good order
self alone - I thought she did very well. I am quite smart
this morning - have cleared up the sitting room, and intend
to go to baking this afternoon. Johnny's mama sent him
three dollars to buy a fiddle box with. You know Mr. Ricker
has been at work over there - Mrs. Furber told Samuel that
he said Isaac paid all Joseph's expenses at Hartford, and
also that you (Mother) was very much out of health and
did not pretend to do any thing at all! He ought to know better
than to talk so - nevertheless don't train him and cause a
fuss. I very much fear you and Josie both took cold going
home, it was so windy, and Samuel said you were all chilly,
bad for you especially Mother because you did not sleep the
night before. You can't think how still & lonely it does seem
here, and how much I did want you to tell me what to do
and nurse me up for two or three days. But I am being
well now. I beg you will not train Eliab too vigorously and
hurt his feelings about not coming here more. perhaps he
could not and ought not - his time is not his own you know.
Samuel was talking about his coat yesterday - said he should
have had it two years "come marrying time".
26th - Do you guess how glad I was when Samuel came from
Bangor today with six letters! - not all for me, to be sure - a
long one from Ann, one from Isaac to Josie & another to Eliab
one from Everett to Isaac, from Dole to Joseph, & from
Farrar to Joseph. I do not like it Mother - I want your
likeness. Wherefore did you carry it away? I went to look
at it same day after you were gone and found it missing
I want it. Evening - Pa & Ma Furber have come - Charles

gave them the bundle & is not coming down - I am very sorry - but will try to send up the firkin in the morning before he goes. I expected him, and fixed the bed all up nice on purpose - My cold is better, though I am very hoarse. Nothing new in Ann's letter to me, so I'll not send it - Much obliged for your cabbages &c. will attend to Joseph's request soon as I can. Everett says in his letter to Isaac "I suppose you could get me to go to Dunbarton for you if you will give me a message or anything which will serve as an excuse or reason for calling - Will you try it? I believe all the clergymen and their families in the region round about are well". am very glad to hear so favorable an account from Milo meetings &c. especially little Lucy. I am alone in the kitchen fire most out - must go see the folks now - good night good night - do do do write often - Affectionately Lucy.

I don't know who opened Ivle's letter - spose twas Eliah.

Lucy. Hampden

Mar 21. 1850

1850

Hampden March 1st 1859

March 1st. Dear Mother's birthday, as I well remember myself, besides being reminded of it by Jane. What a stormy day! real driving snow storm this forenoon, and fast rain this afternoon. Samuel read "Lyell" to me and fixed his boots, while I mended his coat in this P. M. he is writing to Warren while I scribble to you. I forgot to put your Inkstand in the trunk in Josie, having company, you know, and much else to think of. So I got it ready to send by "Pa", but he could not take it. Samuel says we had better get a good bottle & carry up when we go. I have never seen but three or four of the numerous inkstands you mention, and most of those S. gave to Mr. Crosby's children. There is only one here now. I wrote a little to send by Mr. Furber, but thought it not worth the trouble. Mrs. Crosby is getting better slowly. I wish to know the precise quantity of cord wanted for the Pall Chain - your tassels I believe - write me, and I will try to get it before I go home. Isaac's things are all ready - kerchief hemmed and all. What a pity Charles did not bring his hog down sooner, when there was better sleighing and a higher price - butter too has fallen - is being brought in in immense quantities, 'tis said.

Last night Jane was looking out the window and said there was a great star bigger than all the rest, and had longer prickers too. How I want to see you all, and Charlie too - he must cut a fine figure sewing wood. Mrs. Furber left me a skein of white yarn, so I shall not need any more Mother. Yesterday and last night had bad head and ague ache - with a little more cold I suppose - soaked my feet and sweated, - feel better today than I have before since you went away.

Thurs. 14th. Thought I would not tear off the former part this epistle, valueless though it be, but "continue to proceed on." We arrived safely & comfortably home Sat P.M. Good sleighing to Bangor - mostly bare ground from there to Hampden. Found Jane most sick with a cold. better now. Sabbath went to meeting in the forenoon - great sermon - Prof Shepard, on Paul's talking to Felix & Drusilla. Stormy in afternoon - went not - Monday did big washing most three weeks - Tuesday baked pies, & in the midst of it came Eliot with a sleigh load of girls - Lissie Doe Anne Allen & Sarah Stone - surmise that the latter is the "bright particular star" - stopped about an hour, then rode down to Hampden & back here to dinner without giving me any notice thereof - just as well though. Wednes. (yesterday) did big ironing - eleven shirts &c - Isaac came in midst of it - good boy that he was. Samuel went up to Pushaw - today he has gone to Stetson - Isaac is packing his trunks to go Milo tomorrow - how I want to go too - I didn't stay half long enough before - Isaac will deliver your beloved pen handle Mother, and your lost tooth-pick forcie which I found in the fireplace. Also I send the waist pattern which you desired - you will probably find it much too large. Am sorry I have not got Almeda's things to send, but did not know of the opportunity in season to get them - will attend to it the first time I go to Bangor - I send a pr of stockings that John left here - will you please to deliver them - Do not think of more to write - good bye Affectionately — Lucy.

Do write to me.

~~Tell Isaac to bring~~. he need it!!!!!

Lucy & Samuel, Hamden

March 15. 1850

Dear Folks as Isaac left his trunk to go afterwards, I thought I would get the things to send with it. Have been to Bangor this afternoon through six inches of thick mud. I had no idea it was so bad.

Delaine, ten yds - 20 cts -	2.00	I think it is pretty, do you?	
linen thread	12½	These are Almeda's things	Spent 2.70 for Almeda's & the .25 Mother left.
unbleached do.	.04		
4 white spools	20		
Col'd do.	4		
needles 5 papers	.25		
black ribbon	10		
quilled lace	12½		
plain do.	.08		2.95

Mother handed me .25 to get cap stuff for Almeda - Louise said she could block out a cap for me cheaper than she could sell lace in the piece for me, as they use all the time cutting out. Quilled lace 12½ a piece - got a piece and ½. put two rows in front, one behind - don't know as I got good ribbon enough for strings, but thought you did not want very nice. The man did not throw in any silk with the dress - naughty, ought to. I could find no black cord nor tassels - will sometime go to an Upholsterers & try to get tassels, and will get a skein of worsted as before for cord.

Drilling for Albina, as I did not set it down, I could not tell how much she told me to get, but thought it was three yds, though it seems a monstrous pattern for two aprons. Shilling a yd -, 50 cents. Lucy, will stuff all the things into Samuel's [illegible] bag, & send with the trunk - let Isaac bring it back with him. I'll send a message to Eliot about the bedticking. good night Lucy.

wish I could get Milo again - seems as if I did not talk half enough about all your plans & fixings, nor love any and all of you half enough when I was there. I want to go see Joseph.

Tell Joseph. that. Oliver Clark. has fixed his a/c. went Wednesday to Putnam. dont think much of the property there. saw mill in quite good order. shingle mill. bad Dam bad. house bad. water privilege good. land 3/ poor. timber small hemlock. and cedar. would not give $800. for all the Fletcher interest. wrote Fletcher a letter to day. poor seamth

Went to Stetson yesterday. could do nothing with Wing. very cross. if he had known the firm to be good would have sued for damages. gave up the note and passed receipts. Wingate must put up the balance ($15.03) for damages. no sales of flour. bating two Bbls to Henry

S Brown & Co

March 15th 1850

G. W. F.

[illegible]

Dear Mother

I have written so lately that I don't know as I have anything to say, but as Bell is going this morning I suppose you will expect me to send a word by her. Joseph has repeatedly called for Cheever and Shirley in his letters, and though Isaac said once, wait till he came before sending them, as there is so good an opportunity, I think I will pack them off.

When Samuel gets the Life of Cromwell you mentioned from Brown's I would like to keep and read it, if it's not wanted elsewhere. I almost want to pack up my rug and send by Mehitable lest I should not come up myself. I much want you to see

it. We consider it quite an indignity put upon all three of us. Mehitable, the and the "monkey herself" to be called a horse stable carpet.

Elijah heard that in a recent gale of wind, the Henry Crosby was cast away, but as the report has not yet been confirmed, he thinks it untrue. 'Twould make quite a hole in his living, would'nt it. Well, they are ready and I must stop - How much longer are you going to stay there Isaac? good morning

In haste Lucy.

Wednes. morn.

forgot to get a Catechism. will send Jane's. Cord and tassels first opportunity..

D.

Mother

Lucy Hampden
March 1856

Lucy Hampden

March 20. 1850

Hampden March 20th 1850.

Jennie's birthday. I believe I have not written any to Mrs. since last Sat. and now it is Wednes. P.M.! Monday forenoon while I was in the "height" of my writing, who den you think should come? If it was'nt the veritable Charles Harlow! He wished and wished Isaac was here. For my part, I concluded Isaac would "bless his stars" that he was not. He came and introduced himself to Samuel, who was chopping wood at the door; "believed he was Mr. Metcalf's partner in business" &c. Samuel invited him in - he stopped two hours or so, took dinner, & rode up to Bangor with Samuel. He talked most all the time, about Religion, querying about one thing and another &c. He does act very queer - Samuel hardly knew what to make of him. Elijah says he owes him $2.50 and would owe him much more if he would have lent it to him. Yesterday I did "break the ice" and go to Sewing Circle at William Dennett's. Enjoyed it very well. Mrs. Jewett pleasant & polite as usual, Hannah Moore "chock full" of "carrying on" about Mr. Webb & Mr. Dunmore &c. Much jabber about Cholera & everything else most. Dysentery with cramps very prevalent now - Dr. Rich says no doubt Cholera will be here again. Third Parish have held divers meetings & have given Mr. Webb a call. Offer him $950, with the privilege of being absent half the time for two years, at ten dollars per Sabbath. The Augusta people previously offered 800, only, but would at any rate overbid Bangor if that would make any difference which Webb says, it would not. He has decided to go to Augusta, or rather, people say Prof. Pond has decided to have him go. They want to send a smart man from the Seminary out to Kennebec, thinking it will have

some effect in getting the other Professorship (Prof. Smith) endowed. Some parish want third parish to get a minister from Andover, instead of having one educated here, but Prof. Shepherd said he would rather resign his professorship and become their Pastor himself, on account of the injury to the Bangor Seminary in the eyes of people abroad. There has been considerable excitement and feeling all round. Guess they have been so taken up with the matter, that they have forgotten all about the Mils application. Mr. Dunmore has gone to Hallowell to preach until Mr. Steele, who has received a call there from the Seminary, shall graduate next fall, unless he is desired to start for Africa before that time. Poor Dunmore wants a wife, and all the girls like him extravagantly, but are not willing to go with him. Hannah Moore is knitting him some flannel undershirts - said she tried one on to him the other day, pulled it right on over his head! he is very lively as well as she. Jane is an extra good girl nowadays. What a difference it does make with her, if there is any thing unusual going on around. She is steady as can be - Has hardly missed a word in Spelling, or a question in Geography for a fortnight - gets two lessons regularly every day, reads a chapter in the Old, and one in the New Testament every forenoon, and a lesson in her reading book in afternoon. Dóves, knits, sews, swings and jumps rope the rest of the time.

22nd. We spent last evening at Mr. Dorr's - Allura, the same chatter box as ever. This forenoon Samuel is up in the woods, chopping, and I am "getting a boiled pot" for dinner - wish Somebody would come to help eat it - 'Tis a

big dinner to get for three folks, you know. We live mostly on "bread & butter and apple sauce" these days! Samuel's favorite aliment - mine too. Makes few dishes to wash! *Beans* once a week, of course, Mother! How did the things suit? I want to go to Phila again - mean to by and by. Prospect now is, not much business at the mill this summer.

Jane seems as much interested reading the Bible, as you often see a child in any story - puts queer constructions on it sometimes - makes me think of Lissie Doe sometimes. Said when a little girl she read the passage "this is the heir - come let us kill him"; thought it over to herself - "this is the *hair comb*" - rejoicing that she had come to one thing in the Bible that she could understand!

25th *Very* windy yesterday, and I not very well, so I did not go to meeting. S. brought me home Eliot's letter from Isaac. glad to hear from some of you - been wondering why you did not write - One of Prof. Shepard's great sermons yester, afternoon - subject Sin, its progressive character, results &c. brought in the Rumseller in the course of his sermon, how *hardened* in sin &c. "Would build his house on the very skulls of those he had ruined, mingle their bones with the frame work & cement it together with their blood, while the groans of his victims was the *music* of his apartment &c". I have not got it right, but that is the substance. I have washed your bed blankets today, besides other woolen and a few white clothes - got done, and floor washed a little after twelve. To be sure Samuel "stood over me" and helped me all he could - pounded, wrung out the blankets, rung out the clothes &c. so I must not take *all* the credit to myself. Sewing Circle tomorrow at Mr. Lewis's - *All the gentlemen* that usually attend meeting at the Hall invited - great jam in the evening.

26th Storms, and I don't go to sewing circle, Am not sorry, for I
took cold yesterday & don't feel very smart. Mrs. Crosby called down
here this morning - first time she has been out - rather feeble yet.
Jane recites right off, with very little hesitation, all the Catechism
but the last twelve questions - soon have it all. Think her Catechism
Bible reading and all make her think a good deal. She says every
thing she reads makes her think about being a Christian. Feels
sometimes as if she would go right off and be a Christian, and then
she don't know how." I think she does try hard lately to do right
and just as I want to have her. I want a letter from some of you
Why don't you write? I wish, if you think of it, when Isaac comes
back, you would send me set of [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible]
wants to read the "Wanderer of Switzerland". I intended to have
got it when I was there. We have got most half through. Oramel
Lectures. Like it much. Will Almeda lend me the other Volume
of Bunyan, and I will send them both home by the first opportu-
nity, as also her Manual of Peace, which I intended to have returned
before now. I am getting through The "Interior Life" - think it a very
good book. I think there is no danger of our being too perfect, and
I really cannot find as that advocates any more perfection or
holiness than the Bible requires. The more I read that, the more I
read the Bible, and the longer I live, the more I feel that I ought
to try constantly to be holy - if 'tis right to do right at all, [illegible] [illegible] to do
perfectly right - that is, to try. But it does seem as though so much
heart evil, as well as outward wrong, could never be subdued, and
"brought into subjection." "My grace is sufficient for thee" is certainly
a strengthening promise. I don't know as [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
write Samuel is going to Banner. My sheet is [illegible] [illegible],
[illegible] is it is, and I'll send it along, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
back [illegible] from Milo when he comes. Good bye all. [illegible].

Your [illegible]

Lucy & Samuel Hampden April. 1850

Hampden Apr. 2d. 1850.

Dear Mother, brethren, & Sisters,

Your goodly and long desired letter which should have been rec'd Saturday, through carelessness of Post Office Clerks, came not to hand until yesterday. I conclude it is Charles' birth day! You see I remember & commemorate all the birth days if I am away from home. 'Tis a shocking pity Samuel is so profane, Josie, truly! Would I were at home to laugh with the rest at your "drawing in perspective" Isaac, or rather to take your part! With regard to the drilling, denims, or whatever you are pleased to call it, I am sorry it does not suit, - but it is precisely the stuff that Mrs. Chapter makes aprons of for her little boys, and I presume after washing, you would not find it too stiff. At any rate I doubt not Charley would "find his way through it" sooner than you imagine. "Don't you think" Samuel carried me to the dentist's today, who filled four teeth - next Wednes. I go have the rest filled and three decayed roots extracted. They feel nicely now. He asks $2.00 a cavity - Will be an expensive job unless he makes some deduction. Said 'twould be a poor job for him & us too, as the cavities were so large, he could'nt put on a face to ask what it was worth to fill them.

Dr. Webster is all the talk here - seems to me I never felt so about a murder & execution before - how dreadful it is from first to last - how much worse than Coolidge. Samuel has come in & going to reading, so I'll stop now.

Apr. 4th. Fast day. Windy & stormy some - did not go to meeting. Mrs. Crosby sent down "Hill Difficulty and other allegories" by Geo. B. Cheever - belonging to Mrs. Heason. Have

got most through "Lectures on Christian Progress." Very good. I guess Cheever has studied Bunyan considerable. Stove moved out in the kitchen - looks empty enough in the dining room - Mrs. Crosby and Margaret, Mrs. Bartlett and her sister Sarah Parker are expected to visit here tomorrow. Their husbands coming to tea - Compliments are hereby sent, requesting the company of Mrs. Metcalf, and as many of her family as can conveniently leave home! How the wind blows! Samuel exchanged his old watch for a large Spoon - the other day he bought a mate, and 1/2 dozen tea-spoons for ourself, together with two large and 1/2 doz. small ones for Olive, to be sent by her Father, for which he paid to Albert Titcomb, jeweller, the sum of eighteen dollars. A large company of human beings are playing ball in the open field, not far from our house. Samuel bought me some pretty Magazine pictures 'tother day, for four cents apiece. Elijah did actually ride down here with Samuel last Sat. eve, and stay all night, going back with us in the morning. I did certainly invite Charles Harlow to call again, and a few days after when Samuel was going to Bangor, he met him almost down here, and carried him back! He wanted S. to hire him to work in the mill - said he and his Father did not get along together very well!

I am really sorry Isaac & Joseph cannot write to me only as "mother says they must!" Glad Almeda likes her dress. Poor Mr. Bumps! I'm glad you got the chair for Joseph - should think it would be much easier for him. That Jane I talk of, is Jane - "as if we thought to circumvent thee" - isn't that very plain now? I am glad Lydia Kier is a smart woman, glad her house is prettily furnished, and above all, glad she did it herself!!! I see by the papers that Mr. (Bangor) Hodge is settled over the Congregational Church

in Providence R. I. In his farewell at Bangor, he said they were not, as people called them, Unitarians - but "Independent Congregationalists." Every one at liberty to believe just what he pleased. I have bought me a de laine gown, and an awful pretty calico, that Samuel was particularly pleased with.

Apr. 6th. Saturday P. M. Finished baking - pies, puddings, beans bread, doughnuts &c. scalded preserves too. Yesterday Mr. & Mrs. Crosby, Mrs. Bartlett & Sarah Parker passed the afternoon here - pretty good time - subject matter for conversation - Dr. Webster, as usual - Harvey staid at home, as usual. We don't know yet, but Samuel does not expect to be at the mill - Hathorne only intends to run by day, and won't be willing to pay enough. Samuel thinks he shall get appointed Surveyor in Bangor, but don't know how things will turn yet. Pity Isaac did not get his application sooner - Clerks are said to be very careless at the Bangor Post office. Mehitable writes she is coming down when her Father goes, to make us a short visit. I am glad Isaac can stay with Josie so long, and I want him to, but it seems as if I ought to see him some, too. Have you seen in the Tribune a notice that Dr. Munde has bought the "Water works" at or near Northampton, Mass. and "set up for himself". Does Josie continue his baths? You don't hardly write me anything about him, how he gets along - and he never does.

The ~~streets~~ roads are here quite dry and dusty, though the frost is not out - ground shakes under the horses' feet in some places. 8th Apr. Prof. Shepherd preached his sermon yesterday about Prof. Webster. His text was not especially "murder will out" but "be sure your sin will find you out", "the soul that sinneth it shall die", and two or three other similar passages. Tendency of sin to discover itself, majesty of law &c. &c. Speaking of the interior

excitement & anxiety of all classes during the trial, and to know the verdict &c. said the steam-driven press groaned with its labor night and day, and the steam driven ducks carried the reeking sheets into every city & village of the land. even that could not satisfy. but the lightning must bear the news on its wings &c. How it passed from lip to lip - how every heart palpitated to hear the words. Has the verdict come? What is it? "Guilty." This he spoke almost in a whisper - and how still the house was you can judge - Hall has been very ill lately. He does preach big sermons. Application you can think out for yourselves - Infinitely greater perfection & majesty of God's law - the final tribunal at the judgment day - there not one man only, but a world to be acquitted or condemned. the interest felt there &c. A Mr. Bolar admitted to the church yesterday by profession. Samuel & myself, & three others, by letter. I am got into a students class - Mr. Towns - with Hannah Moore - the question was brought up whether Satan knew of Christ's divinity when he tempted him, or only considered him a superior, and uncommonly holy man. Hannah said she did'nt believe he understood his divinity said she "I know he never'd spent his time & strength tempting God to sin". She is a case to talk, as Joseph says. I think Mrs. Jewett is one of a thousand. Mary Tower's intended is in the Seminary here. A Baptist - who would have thought it? I'd like to get acquainted with him. Guess I better go to washing - been writing while my clothes boiled.

I suppose that it is decided that I shall not work for Hathorn this year. he only runs the mill by day for want of stock. suppose he feels poor, only offers me $25 to do more than I done last year. "Prov. Surveyor Gen" was appointed yesterday. Albert Smith. think I will have no difficulty getting deputised. then I must get employment.

Think I will take Isaac's note when he comes down

R. F. T.

Lucy N. L. Hampden
May 4, 1850.

Dear Folks all   Hampden May 4th 1850.

It is Sat. morn and I ought to be about my baking. Bell is clearing away the table, when I did'nt want her to, and Jane picking over beans. Want to send a letter Monday, so I must write this morning.

Nice good letters have been received from you all at sundry times lately - Apr. 17th, 24th &c. good folks. Hope you'll "continue the treatment". I want to come to Milo dreadfully - think I shall a day or two ere long. What good times you all seem to be having there. Mother seems to be very happy about the ~~six~~ x x x x excellencies of her boys. With regard to Isaac's labored exhortation, dissertation or whatever on health, I can only say that the ~~manu~~facture of our "horse stable carpet" made neither of us sick - By the way he would ~~honor~~ it with a more respectable name, I know, if he should see it. It is really very handsome - every body even Mrs. Thaxter says so. I shall certainly pack it up and carry it to Milo ~~when~~ I go, that you may see it! I have taken cold two or three times lately & for two or three days have had Lamenings in side, shoulder, neck, head, "ague cheek" &c. night before last slept none till two o'clock - kicked, groaned and turned from side to side, then got up (Samuel mad a fire) and slept nicely on the sofa till morning. Better now, but have to keep bundled up. Isaac seems extremely anxious that Mother should "learn" ~~some information~~ respecting "Antoinette Dunbarton". I will cheerfully give in such testimony as I am able - It may perhaps be called partly circumstantial, partly

We found Bbo? of Mayflowers in the hills opposite here

positive. First for the positive. In a letter dated "Goffstown N.H. Nov. 11th 1849" and signed "I. S." I find the following passage.
"You know I never found any body that I took a fancy to. Well, here is a girl teaching school in Goffstown now, daughter of a neighboring clergyman, intelligent and intellectual, went out with the first company of Miss Beecher's teachers, one of the most modest pretty behaved little girls you ever saw. You could not help loving her just to see how good she looks. I believe if I dared to I should try to get acquainted with her. &c. &c".

Again in another bearing date "18th Dec. 1849. I find the following. Speaking of the little school teacher. But then she is so good, I do like her, nobody can help it. I have got acquainted with her - have been over to her fathers two or three times. He is a clergyman in the next town, a very good and pleasant man. And I like "Antoinette" better and better the more I become acquainted with her. I wonder if I were not over there last evening and my horse run away, and I had to come home a-foot five or six miles! &c. &c. "I. S. M." For the circumstantial I shall merely refer you to a letter written by Isaac's chum, in which he alludes in a jocose way to "families of the neighboring clergymen &c." I would call your attention to the fact that these revelations were particularly called for and requested by Isaac, for Mother, or they would never have been made.
I am particularly obliged for the flower seeds - they have been planted. Am sorry Jos. was disappointed in "Hill's Laurie". Who is Charlie's hired man, pray? Haven't you got a great freshet up there? Much obliged for rags, though the rug was completed when they arrived! The dark green would have been highly acceptable & useful had it come sooner. I'll bring them

back when I come. Isaac, Bell wanted something to read, and I took the liberty to draw forth from your trunk "Shirley"; "Lamartine" and above all "David Copperfield" - How nice that is, and how we want the rest of it. She has read most of it to me. There are a number at least of your books here. Upham, two Vols. Laurel, Rhetorical Reader, some Greek books, Kavenagh, Hactenus, Evangeline &c. "Margaret Smith" and "Whipple's Lectures" I lent to Lizzie Doe. Bell wants to read them very much, but Liz has gone to Portland to spend vacation & marry Mary Shirley (bridesmaid) and I can't get them now. Catechism, cord & tassels shall be duly attended to. I must go bake - Samuel will finish - In love and haste. Lucy. The big beautiful Cactus is all dead, but Samuel bought of Brockmiller two more - one two years old with four buds, said to be handsomer than the old one - and one a year old - no buds.

We desire you if you please to send us a box of your nice new butter forthwith. Letter from Ann recently. Samuel will buy a cow soon - make no butter - sell milk to the boarding house. Please send the butter by Cutts soon as convenient, to be left at his stopping places. Wish you could also send a Monk's hood, Lily, Flag &c. roots at the same time. I have not been to sewing Circle for two or three weeks - stormy &c. Mrs. Jewett has been quite sick - well now - Charles Jenkins better - believe I wrote you that he had several attacks of hemmorage, which reduced him very much and much alarmed his friends. Jane has got a new Atlas & gets along nicely with her lessons. Has got through the Catechism. Mrs. Goddard's little babe weighed 4 1/2 pounds, had fits all the time & died in two or three days - she cried & cried a great deal. I have got some acquainted with her. Our dozen biddies have laid some 20 dozen eggs

J. M. Metcalf

I think I owe you answers to numerous letters. Hulls Laurie you may return Duren will exchange for other books. Theory of a future life I have not seen. Duren had it not but told me the price and would send for it wanted. In Dealings absence Thurston and I got new papers for the Schr B and put Capt Jellison in possession. Dealing came home feeling deeply an highly indignant determined to have Patel go in the Schr while we were equally determined that he would not go. "in even scale &c" at length Dealing offered us $25 to say what we would give or take terms 1/2 down 1/2 in six months with interest we offered to give or take $475 Dealing sold so that I had to pay $100 by reason of which I shall not be able to make any payment to you at present I suppose that six per cent is as much as you can realize from your money if you feel it to be safe I will pay you that and be much obliged beside. The Senator will probably be finished to day. her repairs will amount to about $500. There are a few more barrells of of flour at Milo but I suppose it will sell for $6,25 so that I send you the a/c of sales I have called the flour exchanged for the Senator $5,50 in the trade with Hathorn it was called $5,70 but to take $5,50 for it 3 ms without interest which was as much as it could be sold for.

This Spring — Sold about 12 clear — They give us now six or eight per diem.

Hampden May 11th 1850.

Dear people all

First, how my pen did spatter writing "people"! Next, how pleased and glad to receive the letter, butter and posies. Next, for the news, - you must know I have a boarder! Capt. Stevenson's lady, who sustains some sort of a fraternal relation to "Mrs. Capt. Mark Murch, from Saco on the Biddeford side", That you have heard me tell of, plead so earnestly to get boarded for a week, while her husband is loading his vessel at the Mill, that we took her in, though 'tis quite unagreeable to me. I was quite unwell a few days before Bell went home - took cold, ague &c. but am quite well and smart now. I wanted to go to Milo next week, but cannot now unless Mrs. S. goes away in season, which I do not expect. I will do my best about a carpet next time I go to Bangor. Tell Josie I hope he will forgive me for misspelling "Phlox", as it certainly was not done with malice aforethought. I see by the papers that there have been $20.000 raised in Boston for Prof. Websters family. Mrs. Dr. Parkman headed the list with $500.00. Looks well in her, does'nt it? 13th Mond. morning. Mrs. Stevenson reading in the sitting room, Mrs. Finnegan doing a fortnight's washing, Mrs. Goddard making me a call - myself clearing up, washing cupboards & getting dinner, Samuel going to Bangor, and Jane delighting herself with Mrs.

Finnegan & gabble. Eliot was down Sat. night. Why didn't we think to ask you to send us some of the nice horticultural beans, that I so much love. We've got some tomatoes Nasturtiums, squashes &c. guess we'll have a little garden.

May 14th 1857

J. M. Metcalf

Yours of the 7th inst was duly rec'd & read. I will make my books on flour a/c to agree with yours after a sufficient time has elapsed to destroy any hope of recovering the stolen amount. Who is Capt Jellison? he is skipper of the Brandywine. further I say not except that S. D. picked him up the B arrived in Bangor Saturday gone fifteen days. stocked $85; is now loading with shooks, banisters & shingles. freights scarce. $150 to Boston. the Senator sailed to day

In making up the interest a/c on flour I cast to 1 7th and deducted interest on amount of ~~sales~~ from the opposite amount; you will want to chg me interest from May 7th I think I will buy the Red Cow your Mother spoke of. if there appears any way of transporting her to Hampden please to improve it I may either this or some other week be up after her. am much Oblgd for your very kind consideration of me in regard to old vessels,

S. W. T.

J. M. Metcalf Esq
Milo

Hamilton

Lucy Hampden
July 1. 1850

Hampden July 1st 1850.

Samuel has gone to Bangor, Jane to school, and I am left alone. We had a fine time coming down, only sorry we did not bring Lute. Stopped two hours at Bradford, most of which time I slept refreshingly on the hard narrow sofa. We were just in time for the stage dinner - Samuel went to the table - I did not - he brought me ham & potatoe, bread & butter, strawberry and custard pie. I did not feel as well that day as for some previous days - was very tired at night - slept almost all day Sunday, feel quite nicely today. We got here some after five - Jane came with a fine lot of strawberries soon after, and who do you guess next? Charles Harlow, of course! Very glad to see us - very sociable &c. for half an hour or so, then wished to speak alone with Samuel - wanted to borrow five dollars and give good security! He would probably have got it if S. had not previously heard of Eliab's trials. I pitied the fellow - to walk away down here to ask such a favor of an almost entire stranger, and be refused too! Albina's bread was good - and quite a blessing to us. I hope you'll think to send my green veil by Lucy - I forgot it. Mrs. Goddard is very sick again with her breast - worse than ever. They feared she would have fits yesterday - I expected it when she came up here that damp morning. I forgot to talk all I intended with Almede about her bonnet. If I were in her place I would have a black straw, lined with black, if she prefers it to white, trimmed with crape or ribbon just as she likes, and a plain black lace veil with broad hem - all of which would be very cheap and proper. These I would have purchased immediately, & wear them this summer light & comfortable as

they would be – then in the long rides & stormy weather of another winter I would wear the old, and save the new nice for another summer – Say now, will you not give directions as to price, style & trimming &c. and let me send one right up? There seemed to be so much to think about and so little time to think when I was at Mills, many things were forgotten as usual – I hardly know what Mother concluded about her parasol. It seemed all the way home as if I had hardly seen any of you. Shan't Samuel and I go buy Pa's farm, and live up there with you always. I half want to – only I am not fit for a farmer's wife. Mrs. Slayter and Lissie Doe were down Sat. afternoon. I stewed some split peas for dinner Sunday, and built a rice pudding – Peas real good. Toast and Strawberries for supper – Eliab came down. Guess I'll go lay down now, and finish my letter after Lucy comes. Mother's account which she wished for I have taken from Samuel's day book – If she can pick out all the shoes, she will do better than I can, 'tis just the same as yours so I won't send it. I have bought ½ doz. more 'ker-chiefs – two for Albina – Tell Almeda I did not think what I was about when I took the 3.00 for Lucy's use & behoof, as I intended to get her whatever she needed. With her permission I will forthwith use a part of it to get her bonnet – will she not write immediately her wishes & conclusions? The bacon is good as ever, Mother, & I am cooking it for dinner this day Tuesday – Peggotty is "pretty comfortable". Samuel has gone strawberrying – making a business of getting some to preserve.

Lucy got here safe and sound last night – pretty tired from jolts and jams. Has helped me make some bread, and pies from the green strawberries & currants. Samuel, Jane & Bridget picked eight pounds yesterday, which with Samuel's assistance I preserved this forenoon – had more than I expected to get. They are not near so thick here as at Mills. And so Isaac is going sure – it seems as though he must not, and yet I know 'tis best – I am glad he has so good an appointment. What in the world will poor Josie & Mother & all the rest of you do – All losing your father & guardian at once! The matter of Alfred Holman shall be inquired into, & information given as speedily as possible.

Sweet Briar, with what grows on it for Joseph

If some of you ought to give
Alfred employment after
he gets to Milo, had'nt you.

Hampden July 9th 1850.

Dear Mother

Alfred Holman came down here to day made us a good long call and took dinner - I am very sorry it has happened so - he understood that he was wanted immediately if he went to Milo, and has lost his place where he was at work, in consequence is now out of employment. He is going to Milo tomorrow and I hope Charles or some-body will hire him, so he need not lose his time. I like him better & better - he seems really kind hearted & good - says he should really like to go and take care of Joseph if he can - seemed to feel very much for him. I hope you will not fail to get him when Isaac goes away. 'Tis not every one that would feel such an interest in Joseph as he does. I think him a whole hearted fellow - You would rather have him about the house than some folks too. I should rather give considerable more to have him. When is Isaac going, where, and what to do. Why cant you write me a word about it. I was intending to go to Bangor this afternoon to get some things for Lucy &c. but Samuel is surveying at the Mill all day - Surveyed at Bangor for Treat & Hardy day before & part of yesterday - went to Old Town for Hathorne yesterday P.M. I am smart as a steel cricket - have grown strong and well ever since I came from Milo. Mrs. Finnegan washed yesterday - most three weeks wash, you know - Lucy and I have done all the ironing excepting calicoes. to-day - I did most all - besides getting Pea Soup (which

was amazing good!) custard pudding and warm bread for dinner. Lucy is slow, but very nice and faithful about everything, which is worth more than dashing you know. She and I did a real baking of beans, pudding, apple & currant pies, bread, fried doughnuts, and got a boiled dish for dinner besides, last Sat. forenoon! In the P.M. Jenny churned, I fixed the butter and worked over all the rest, putting in more salt - I found it would not possibly keep. Lucy is very quiet and thoughtful - much more considerate than she used to be - needs a little reminding now and then - but is very good to think of things without being told. I have the girls sleep in separate chambers, for the well-being of both, and as I judge, the particular comfort & benefit of both. To relieve Almeda's mind about Lucy's looking old womanish, tell her I have once more made the mantilla all over - made it more scanty & fixed little sleeves. It is enough prettier to pay for it - did not look so well before as I expected - Lucy is a good large girl, but not a woman yet. She is in Mrs. Jewett's class in S. S. Likes her very much - I went to meeting Sabbath afternoon. Mrs. J. and Hannah Moore enquired kindly and particularly for Josie and Mother. I am going to get Lissie Boird or somebody else to cut my new calico, - think I shall get Lucy a Gingham & have it cut at the same time. I have bought two 'kerchiefs for Albina, which I will send when John goes home if they do not come down and there is no previous opportunity. Lucy says Almeda wants some too. Think we make quite a business buying handkerchiefs and shoes. I have already got ten kerchiefs, and will get four more for

Almede and Lucy if they are not gone. Sidney Braxter & wife made me a call last Friday. Strawberries are being gone here - my preserves are very nice - Eliab says so! Never did I see gooseberries hang on bushes so thick as they do here. Alfred insinuated that he would do Mrs. Searles' haying if she had not already engaged some one - thinks he can work for the "Major" if no where else. I am going to take Lucy with me to Mrs. Crosby's some day. Brown wants Samuel to go way up somewhere where he scaled this week - guess he will go Thursday - be gone a week or more - John will keep the horse down there and come here nights. Senator loading again - gone ten days this time - Samuel will earn something with her, if he don't to work, won't he? he has about done haying! only he has been to busy to get in the hay today. Jane is pretty fly away at home, but as near as I can learn is a real good girl at school. She got in a phrenzy of passion at Mrs. Dorr's disputing about the comparative beauty of Charlie and Mrs. Bickford's baby with some body who never saw Charlie or heard of him before - only made believe to hector her. said Charlie was like an own brother to her, she would'nt stand that &c. and finally went off in the other room and screamed just as loud as she could, till Mrs. Dorr, after coaxing a good while, threatened to inform me if she did not ~~eat~~ go to her supper in just five minutes - Jane told me all about it before I saw Mrs. Dorr, which looked well in the child. What a letter I have written, and only intended when I sat down, to say a few words about Alfred. Wish you'd any of you write so to me. Eli & John were here the 4th. Good bye - affec. daught. Lucy.

18 July - This letter has been in Eliah's possession - going to mail a good while - I will now put in a word or two & send it because I cannot spare time to write another before I. goes to Old town this morning at six o'clock. It is now five - Day before yesterday Eliah came with two great white horses and three girls - Liz Dee, Mary Pomeroy - who is on a visit at Bangor - and a pretty little Miss Lunt whom I had never seen before, and took tea with me - He sent the night before to me, so I had time to prepare - had previously some nice cake made, made some tarts real nice, some of the best milk emptings bread you ever saw, strawberry preserve, & currants mingled with sugar - we all had a lively time you may imagine - I some tired of course - yesterday good brother Semple made his appearance about 9 A. M. Stopped till after tea - He & Lucy seemed almost

Mrs. Anna M. Britcaly
Milo Maine

overjoyed to see each other. I think he is a real good man - He invited us very strongly to come up to the Seminary Friday when we go to hear Mr. Little's eulogy on Pres. Taylor - think we shall go on Lucy's account - should like to have her visit the seminary. Isaac only came in here fifteen or twenty minutes & I will write about it next time. I was so disappointed - Sweet Briar, I had not time to press - is not in very good shape - but believe 'tis past the season now - Will try when the grass is dry if I can get another - If Almeda could see how delighted Lucy was with her letter she would write every week I know. In awful haste Lucy

Lucy Hamdden

July 12. 1850

Hampden July 12th. 1850.

Father came last night after John - is going home tomorrow if he does not tonight - I send four 'ker-chiefs for Almeda and Albina - There are two more here which Lucy is going to hem & use while here, & Almeda can have them or I will keep them just as she likes - tell her to write - Lucy is quite impatient because Mother nor James have neither of them written yet. Why did she not tell me what to do about a bonnet, so that I could send it by this good opportunity. When is Isaac coming?

I bought a small plaid pink muslin for Lucy yesterday could not find a pretty gingham - this is stout & does not fade - also aprons, stockings, gloves &c. Samuel got twenty pounds of beef - leg, after steak was cut off - for, 25 yesterday very fat - such lots of marrow and fat - pieces of marrow half as large as my fist came tumbling out when he cut it into. We had a good steak for breakfast - sell enough for a dinner to Mr. Goddard - have a nice soup for dinner, and am cooking the rest, which is a great boiler full, to make mince pies! Called to see Lizzie Doe yesterday. She is acquainted with Mr. Temple - the night before he gave quite an account of Mil. & the country round there in a vestry meeting at the first parish - she says he is considered quite talented and an excellent scholar at the Seminary, but is exceedingly eccentric - much ridiculed by some - I am thinking it will take Isaac some days to pack, he has so many things accumulated at Mil. If you get this before he comes, wish you'd

Send us one or two of your good turnips - can't get any here but little this years English - don't like them - don't forget my veil. Prof. Webster's confession, Gen. Taylor's death, dreadful fire & loss of life at Philadelphia &c. you have probably heard of before now. What a valuable affair the Telegraph is!

Mrs. A. M. Metcalf.
Milo

Lucy & Sargent Hampden 19th July
Dear Brother & folks

July 17. 1850 Lucy has begun a letter to her Mother - does not make very good headway - she needs to practise - finds it very difficult to express herself she says. I try to help her, but she thinks I cant very well - Mrs. Goddard's sister is fitting her dress today - I am desirous to get it done for her to wear next Sabbath, as her other one is somewhat soiled. If Almede has a fine white skirt which she can send as well as not, perhaps she had better, to wear under her muslin - Am having it cut high outside, lining low with edging round the top - Almede must not think I am extravagant - the child certainly needed another dress here. She & Mr. Temple seemed as pleased to see each other as own brother & sister - He seems to feel very much for the Mill people. I have made Lucy a small plaid, blue gingham apron - looks real pretty. I was much disappointed not to hear Mr. Little's Eulogy on the President today - but it rained - Samuel has engaged with Mr. Hathorne the same as last year - Is at Old Town lots lately, and expects to be more next week. Sat. P.M. Lucy's dress is all done - sets beautifully. The poor girl has pretty hard work writing letters - She has been so unused to excitement that the company got her all into fidgets the other day. Jane would enjoy just such a spree every day, but Lucy would not endure it much better than I should. They did carry on. I tell Lucy she must try to learn herself to be calm under all circumstances. I had a number more things to say, but the hurry of finishing off Lucy's dress made me forget them - We are going to visit the Seminary some day. Isaac had been looking for Elijah after the stage got in till most

dark - had just started with a horse to come down here, and met him with his girls going home - So he got in with them turned about & all posted back here about nine o'clock - I had just unrigged, put on my old loose slips and laid down - did'nt care though anything about it -

Lucy had just gone to bed when they came back, said she could not compose herself & feel happy at all, but when she read her Mother's letter, it calmed her at once. Says she is perfectly contented & likes to stay - If Almeda is willing, I should like her to stay till school is done - four weeks longer -

Lucy thinks I ought to write a few lines to Joseph. have nothing of interest to say have been at work for Hathorne last week $55; per month he has bo't a stock of logs for the Mill. his two purchases of logs amount to $ 30.000, without even seeing one of them I go to Old Town tomorrow morning shall be there most of next week, write to us often

S, W, T,

I don't think I could possibly stand it, to have Jane at home with her - Shall have to send one of them away certainly, Jane is such a fly away. I have the girls both go to meeting forenoons and I stay at home, on account of S. School - Then I go in the afternoon & take one of them. I was very sorry not for an Isaac more -

Lucy Hampden
Aug. 1858

Dear Mother Joseph & all

Lucy seems to desire to go home, and as I do not now need her help, I am going to pack her up and put her aboard stage tomorrow. It is Sabbath night & I cannot write much - your much wished for letter came last week, but not a word about the school or sick teacher which I requested so particularly in my last letter and which Lucy was in a twitter to hear about. I send two skins unbleached cotton (which by the way cannot be obtained so good as in old times,) and two 45 spools for Mother & Albina. The tidy I fear will be rumpled - 'tis not so large as I intended to make, but will do better than none - I have got my rug (sewing on pieces) most done - I spoke with Hannah Moore today - she is going to Hartford a week from next Thursday - I will endeavor to get the book, and call on her this week. The other things Elijah will get before he goes - Mr. Brown is going away, and he cannot as he intended, go this week - Am exceedingly obliged to Joseph for his care of my pictorial book - hope he will send me something - I send Smellie's ~~History~~ Philosophy for him. Samuel says I may take Jane and go up and stay as long as I wish - he will board at Hardy's - but I do not think it will be expedient or proper - though I do want to go and stay with

dear Joseph, and write for him, and help him and love him - I want to see you all much - You inquire for my health - My health is very good, thank you! I am writing to Ann. Eliab has your last letter and I don't remember whether there is any thing more to say in answer or not. Paper and ink can not conveniently be sent in Lucy's bag - Eliab will take them. Do write - do write, do write often. How does Albina do, and why don't she ever write to me? How does Charles stand it taking care of Joseph? good night - Your affectionate daught. & sis. Lucy.

P.S. Letter from Isaac last week - the poor fellow seems to have much responsibility and care - I hope he won't get sick - says much about not hearing from Hilo. Mond. morn. S. will get ½ ream of paper and some ink when he gets to Bangor if there is time. good bye

I send enclosed [illegible] dollars on 9/1

S. W. F.

Brother

Lucy & Samuel Hampden
Aug. 3. 1850

Hampden Aug. 3d 1850.

Dear Mother and folks

You don't write to me, and don't write to me, and don't write to me, till I am sick and tired of not having so many letters! Some little scribblings to Eliab on Josie's business &c. and a little meagre note from Almede, mostly to Lucy - no more for a long, long time, when I want so much to hear of everything. No letter from Isaac yet, either - We learned from John, who came Tuesday that Alfred said Joseph was certainly better - stood alone in the floor for a minute Samuel is busy as busy can be in the Mill, up to Old Town &c. Bennett was so little respected and consequently so much imposed upon by the Mill men, that Hathorne got out of patience and turned him out of the Synagogue this week - our friend Abel Hardy takes charge now - The day before Bennett left as he was passing under the slip, some one poured a pail of cold water directly on him - wet his best hat and "go to meetin'" sadly - that is only one of many things that were constantly taking place. Day before yesterday Lucy and I spent the afternoon at Mrs. Crosby's. I have made seven tumblers of Currant jelly - real nice - and Jane is picking the Gooseberries to preserve today. I have made Lucy's dress - she has worn it to meeting two sabbaths - my new one, and had my pink muslin and pretty blue calico made over in fashion - also made Jane's

light calico that her Mother sent her- her "bonnet with reafs," you know. We do not have much of a school, and I am satisfied that Jane would learn more at home than at school, of everything useful at least- and if your teacher has commenced again, I think Lucy had better go home immediately, as she ought to go to school- our school does not keep but a fortnight longer and I would just as lief Jane would not go another day- besides I am as strong and well now, as before I was sick, about, and could do very well with what Jane could help if she did go to school- Lucy and Jane are both good girls- Jane is much better than when school first began- only flippy- but take them both together, my patience is tried some times- Lucy tries to do right, and is a real good girl, but Almeda has allowed her to be so slow and puttering, that I fear she will never learn to be really smart and quick about work. It is an utter impossibility for her to hurry on any occasion- Tell Almeda from me that she had better do better with Lissie- if she does not work but an hour in a day, let her move that hour- It worries me to see anybody drag round in the heat two hours to do what might much easier be done in half an hour. We have not yet visited the Seminary, but intend to that and Hardy's just as soon as Samuel can "get time". He is much poorer than ever I saw him before- constant care and vexation with paddies and "green hands" that don't know anything. You must'nt expect me to come to Phila again this summer- I will think of you and love you much here as well as there, but can't think of breaking up again

so too - am so glad I went when I did, so as to see Isaac a little - how did Josie like it to have him entire Alfred away - good chance for Alfred - I am glad for him, and probably Isaac could not get another so good in ten towns. If Joseph, our dear Joseph, is getting better any, why in the world may I not know it from himself, or somebody that knows, instead of partly hearing of it in a round about way? It isn't fair not to write more. Just a fortnight from the time our peas bloomed, we had a mess of green peas, and they have grown astonishingly could have a mess every day, and do, almost. How different they are from those Samuel bought in the market - tasteless things. Lucy's muslin dress was cut Friday forenoon and I finished it, every loop and stitch, for her to wear to meeting Sunday, besides baking all the forenoon Sat. She did not set one stitch in it. I am going to have my big jar full of gooseberries. What shall be done with the black currants? One mill man's name is Asa - Mr. Hardy spelt it ^acy Acy! You remember Mr. Emerson, don't you Josie? I don't feel right about it that Prof. Webster is to be executed. Gov. Briggs is too good a man to be accessory to such an act. Mr. Temple shows himself at the Hall every sabbath forenoon! We have cucumbers and do all eat them, though I wish we would'nt! They is good. Why don't Isaac write to me? You need'nt trouble about Lucy's being green and awkward - she appears well enough, only stares a little too much. We wish you to write the next mail after receiving this whether your school is teaching - If you don't, you may expect to see Lucy home before you are

"ready for her!" Sat. eve. Samuel has brought me no letters today, so I'll finish and send this by Monday's mail. He says he'll write a little to Josie dear - so I'll leave the rest of the page. Lucy will write next time, Do, do, do, write to Lucy! Samuel says I run too hard a rig to Almeda - but you know how much it all means - nobody knows better than I that Lucy is one of the best girls that ever was - amen.

To J. M. Metcalf Gentleman

I learned to night that the Omnibuss is numbered with the things that were and that the Independant California bill was taken up in Senate by a majority of Thirteen I expect for the rest of the season to be much confined to the mill at least so much that it will be a waste of eyesight for you to look for us at Milo, What an overturn has turned up at the mill this week six men some of them so long here that they felt like real estate have been discharged and Chauncey C Bennett gone home to recruit. Schooners work slow this year the Senator has now been gone almost four weeks to Cambridge, I learned to night that Miss Hannah Moore is engaged to the Hartford association for a teacher to go to the West. S. W. and wife Lucy

If any of you want any more shoes or handkerchiefs let us know before Lucy goes.

Lucy says there are a great many things that she wants to say to her Mother, but she cannot put them on paper - says she is going home so soon she will wait and speak them by word of mouth.

A great Circus in Bangor last week. Our good Prof. Shepard said he went to see the Circus and was very much pleased with their movements. What do you think of that? Explanation - They were passing by - he went to the window to see them, and was pleased with their movements because they were moving out of town! Old City Hall has been moved back - is going to be fixed over and be used temporarily for a third Parish meeting house. Prof. Shepard is going to be our Pastor -

Tidy for Mother - tis no use for me to do it up, as it will get tumbled going home. Starch it very stiff, lay it on a table or bed & pull it all out.

even and let it dry so, then 'twill be stiff and keep in place. Mr. Crosby's "hypo" is going off gradually. Warren Furber has a recent son. There's a darling pretty way of making dresses-now-which I will send a pattern of to Albina if I can get it before Lucy goes home-loose in front with sack to fit the form behind. Seems to me there was a deal more that I wanted to say, but can't think of it now.

Eliot talks of going to Milo next week. If he does, guess I had better send Lucy. good bye.

Lucy & Samuel Hampden
Aug. 13 1850

Hampden Aug. 13th 1850.

Dear Mother

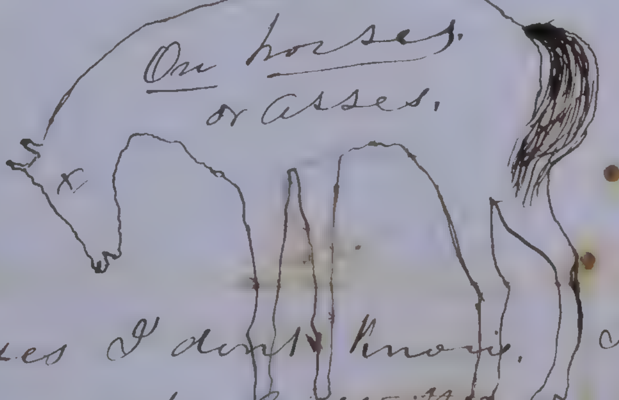
It is after breakfast next day after Lucy went home. I was amazing smart yesterday - and Jane was just as good as mortal could wish for, though the poor child cried by spells all day about Lucy's going away. I expect she'll make quite a person yet notwithstanding she is so passionate and fly away at times. I did the washing, (washed a web & a piece of new cloth besides) got the clothes all out, boiled a blueberry batter pudding for dinner, made two huge loaves of smacking good blueberry cake, and two loaves of bread - Jane washed the dining room and kitchen floors as nicely as I could do it, did up the work, waited and tended &c. and - we got all done, hair combed, dressed up &c. a good while before dinner - but - I went & laid down on the sofa after dinner & unwittingly fell asleep with nothing over me, and in this way, or by the wind blowing on me when washing out on the platform, I got cold in my head & neck, and the way head teeth and all did jump and sing! as if they enjoyed it better than I did! Samuel got up in the night, made a fire and established me in the rocking chair with a comforter round me, prepared a nice dish of cocoa, if thereby I might get in a perspiration - as I was preparing to drink the same, the dish slipped in my hand, and what a piece of work!

as good luck would have it, it was not quite boiling hot, though it made one smart some, but comforter shawl and night clothes - O my! Well I changed my clothes, got excited into a perspiration, drank what was left, went to bed, slept nicely, and am all over it this morning. It seems lonely enough since Lucy went away - she is very quiet generally, but a good deal of company after all - more companionable for me than Jane is. She left her sun bonnet and knitting work here. I will send them by Eliab. I had the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Wooster Parker last week in Bangor - said she had been wanting to go and see Joseph ever since he has been at Milo.

Aug. 14th Samuel brought me your letter this forenoon - good folks - well done - If you have written a large double letter any time since I was at Milo, it was undoubtedly lost somewhere, as I have never seen it. Finished my rug and ironed today - the rug is real pretty - so it is. It was considerable work, but I do not regret the time or labor - 'twill be a piece of workmanship for folks to remember Lute by when she's dead and gone, you know. Well I am glad Eliab is going up - wish I could go too - Jo. your friends - "occupation, operations & prosperity" - Mr. Crosby not quite through her school of 16 weeks - grown poor upon it too, but is much liked, and laboring to do good - I see her occasionally at church - H. A. Moore I generally say "how do you do" to sabba' day - she has had a bad cold - starts a week from tomorrow for Hartford. Mrs. Jewett shakes hands hard when at all. Mr. J. smiles, bows, looks glad to

see me, and everybody else. E. Boyd I very seldom see or speak with, as she sits tother side and gets out first. Sukey Savory I never heard of before, and know nothing about. J. S. Ricker smiles & makes the "salaam" when I see him, which is not often. S. D. Thurston has just gone into partnership with Samuel sending a load of ashes to a quaker somebody somewhere! That's all I've heard about him for a long time. Ann Thurston is spending the summer with friends away - her health improved. The Dea. sings constantly and vigorously at the Hall. "Lydia" comes to meetin' every Sunday. When I come across her path, she looks out of her funny eyes, and nods her head at me. Can I give you any more satisfactory information? hey? Bancroft's Hist. U. S. Mehitable was reading - I thought I should much like to. It is my intention to go to Bangor tomorrow, purchase the desired "Lady", call and say good bye & leave it. I wish & wish & wish that Samuel could sell Cub and buy Beck, but then I could not drive Beck, and he could not let her; Cub, you see, more than earns his keeping all the time hardly a day but somebody is after him - sometimes so we can hardly get him to use ourself. I don't know what S. will think best about it. I am writing to Ann - have had no letter from her for a long time. I do hope she will come this fall. If she would come home, and Josie dear get well, how happy we would be! I don't know really, brother, but it would be punishing brother Iole enough to make him read your writing with good ink, unless you cross your tees and dot your eyes better than you do sometimes. Horace Eliot take back the trunk, so if I should take a notion to go

to Milo, of which there is small probability; I could have somewhat to pack my things in. The hosen which I send (Jane's, are getting too small) please color most anything but black, at your convenience. I think that birch bark is a beautiful color for stockings. If you can conveniently before winter, I wish you would knit Samuel a pair or two of gloves. He will need a pr of coarse and one of fine. I'll knit a pr if you'll send me some yarn! Ain't I good and obliging? I have made my Gooseberry preserve and its nice. I wish I had something more to say, but don't see as I have - guess Samuel will write some. Jane is just the best girl - don't know how long it will last. We have no Cholera here, but Dysentery (bad form) is very prevalent.



Well as for horses I don't know. I ought to sell Cub. he is worth more for Butts than Miss Bee. and I can get the pay for a hoss of Butts, better than any other man, I know that Rebecca would not be of so much present value as Cub but would be improving If Butts will buy Cub and promise to pay me $75. I will buy Bee if I can pay as soon as Charles wants the money, if he wants to sell for $100, perhaps a note on three months would pay his debts if so I could buy, but if he wants cash I can't trade. We are having to repair the Senator, sheath cork the deck, fix new beams some new plank & timber say $400, which will keep me rather short. Capt Jellison moved to Belfast last trip and in consequence he looses more or less time every trip. guess I must look up another Capin. Eye umed Hathern fonetine dolens tu daze thiss weke [illegible] Knode mowen til deth acy Bmersun

What do you spose has got into Samuel

Dear Mother/

Sis did not go today as I expected last night - She and Julia came back about 11 A. M. to start new tomorrow morning. Charles Harlow dropped in unexpectedly to dinner - queer fellow. Capt. Stevenson caught and kissed me vigorously, whereat his better half rebuked him and he said it was not a carnal kiss, but according to scripture, greeting with a holy kiss! A monstrous great crazy beggar came in today the first one I ever saw that I was afraid of I believe - sent down for Samuel, but he was gone before he got here. If there is any pretty grass to be found up there, I wish some of you would cull and save a few handfulls for me - High sand, fall meadow, and blue joint I believe, had not gone to seed. I had quite a lot of various kinds, but let Mrs Thayter have them as she could not get more - I suppose swale and meadow grasses are yet in bloom, and they are prettiest for vases, because drooping - if you find any please stand them up in an old pot or something, so that they may wilt and dry drooping, put them in a paper & send by any convenient opportunity. Samuel Thurston introduced me to his little wife last sabbath. Tiger would'nt go with Mehitable this morning though I gave him an extra breakfast in consideration of his journey - he seems to like living here pretty well. Jane is today offered a cent for

every morning that she will get up by five oclock.

Brother.

Lucy Hampden
Sept. 11. 1850

Hampden Sept. 11. 1850.

Dear People at home

I went shopping yesterday! Purchased for the Sewing Circle ten yds /4 shirting turning the one pr of hose in payment of 25 cents, which was all I could get. The other two pr Elijah has to give to Mr. Temple, who is yet in Bangor. Mr. Kimball has left - what shall be done with the towel? I also got ten yds of the above mentioned shirting for Almeda and five for Albina (just enough for a pair of Chemise, and very pretty for it too I think,) should think it would be pretty also for children's night gowns when bleached. You will find this kind all in one piece - 25 yds. For Albina, five yds/4 per yd ,32

I could not find any 8 cent shirting very good - thought this 9 cent was nice - I put in a bit like what I was making at home for Samuel - you will see it is a nice quality.

For Albina, five yds/4 per yd	,32
11 3/4 yds, 4 cents "	.47
11 " 9 cents	99
3/4 " linen, 50 per yd	37 1/2
1 brown table cover	75
1 salt cellar	10
	$3,00

Thought eleven yds would make Charles two prs of shirts. For Josie's shirts I got 6 yds of the same kind. Ten yds of ,6 1/4 and fifty of ,4 for Almeda makes just a dollar, besides which, from her funds I paid the remaining ,38 besides what the stockings pd for the S. Circle. This is a jumbled up mess - don't know as you will understand it. Charles Harlow called again yesterday

I have no doubt he is deranged - appears more and more like it. I do wish he would not come here so often. What can I do about it. His cold clammy hand makes me think of Uriah Heap in "Copperfield".

Notwithstanding Samuel is "repairing the Senator", and is short just now, he felt it his duty to subscribe ten dollars towards purchasing an Organ for the Central Church - Second hand - Mr. Jewett says 'probabley the handsomest one in the state - great bargain only $800. The Sewing Circle are going to get it, only the gentlemen are to help them five hundred dollars! Have two hundred or 250. towards it now. Mr. Jewett gives 25; Mr. Mc. Donald $80. &c. It was dreadful warm the day I came down - stopped an hour at Bradford - got to Bangor 1/2 past 4. Waited for the stage & Jane half an hour or more. Began to rain before we got quite home - rained all night and next day. There was not a bit of rain here while I was at Milo. It is raining now (Wednes. eve) special hard. Dr Bird says he hardly ever knew a more healthy summer take it through. Mrs. Thaxter called yesterday - she came down to spend the day while I was gone. I called to see Lissie Doe yesterday - gone to Glenburne to help fix two brothers off to Wisconsin. Tell Charles in the overflowing goodness of his heart, he became naughty in sending so much of "that corn". We ate upon it with all our might (dinner of it today, but too old to be very sweet) all we could, and were obliged to give some dozen ears to Mooly today. The cheese is nice and is fast disap-

pearing - Hasel nuts - I remitted a proper share to Eliab.
Pickles are in a fine state of preservation. I put them
in brine soon as I got home, or rather Samuel did;
let them be till Mond. noon, when we got some sharp
vinegar, soaked them a spell, put them in with spice
of divers kinds and alum, where they remain hard and
nice as you please. I don't know whether to let them
be as long as they remain hard & good, or to scald
them now, and I forgot to ask Mrs. Thaxter! my Mentor
you know. Had to throw away part of my good pudding
one and a part apple pies, half loaf of bread &c. Samuel
gave one loaf to Mc. Caffetys. He did not eat any thing
at all hardly - I made some cream tartar biscuit
Sat, night and went to bed. Mond. we, Jane & I looked about to
see what needed care all over the house, found my jelly
moulding, scraped off the top, fitted papers wet with brandy
to the tumblers, tied them up again, boiled an apple pud-
ding for dinner, besides some other cooking, churned, did
my fortnights washing, washed floors and all, and
got done a little after noon - hung the clothes out after
tea. Yesterday baked, cleaned up house and made all tidy
against Mrs. Lee comes! had two callers (Mrs. T. and Charly
Harlow) did a lot of sewing & went shopping - today, rested upon
it! had the Committee to set off Mrs. Emery's thirds all
over and about the house this afternoon. Jane is a fine help.
She cried a good deal Sunday, and some since. Troubled
because she got put out with the children, and coming away
to leave them &c. Wishes she had something to send them, to show
them that she loved and thought of them. I tell her I will give
her a cent a day for getting up at five o'clock till she can earn

enough to get something. Just saw Eliab last night - hardly spoke to him. Well, I must write to Isaac tonight so I'll leave you all for the present. good night. I have forgotten whether Almeda wished her bag filled with coarse meal to send or not.

J. M. Metcalf Esq.

I did purpose to see you last week but was prevented by a press of surveying I earned Mr Hathorne in twelve days surveying $57, before I hired with him Mr. Brown thot I was not competent to survey. it is all working just right, The Senator is now loading with dust. Hathorne expects to contract so as keep her at the dust business, Dunnings bill is about $800, he calls her good for ten years service, all that has been done pretty nearly amounts to new taking she now stands the owners $1860, with some interest, the Brandywine is doing a poor business. got a return from the ashes to day they fell short in Portsmouth of the measurement here 450 Bushels. Thurston & I loose about $4. each instead of a profit of $20. each which we should have realized if the cargo had held out, the quakers were too big rogues for Jellison. The Fletcher and Mayo matters remain in "Statu quo". Have pd Whiting, shall pay McDonnald when he asks for it, Eliab gave me a memo of accounts which you left with him for collection I suppose he is too busy to look after them this Fall. I suppose it to be perfectly useless to write to any of your creditors, perhaps by following them up close something might be collected but think it doubtfull. if there is nothing done sooner perhaps next winter I can look after some of them. If Charles' creditor at Lowell does not want his money at present perhaps I should like to keep it a few weeks and would pay the rate which he pays. Can I keep it if I wish? please to let me know soon

S.W.F.

Mrs. Goddard went blackberrying, as I told you, fourteen miles - got 4 qts - cost her $3.50! Horse & carriage & loss of days time. Profitable, wasn't it! Shall I send the cloth and things up by stage or wait for another opportunity - will ask Mrs. Lee to take that for the Circle if she comes here, but suppose she would not want to carry all.

Mond. eve. Sept. 16.

Got my washing all done, floors washed, bedroom and all, brasses and fireframe rubbed, &c, toilet made and myself set down to rest before noon - been sewing this afternoon, and evening finished previously begun letters to Ann and Olive. Samuel is dilligently perusing the Tribune, & Jane gone to bed. Elijah handed me letters yesterday which somebody brought when the store was shut - he could not find out who. In those I have somewhat different directions about purchases of cloth from those I received when at Milo. You have probably before now got my letter telling what I did buy. I understood Charles cloth for two prs of shirts. Can get more, & if you wish. I will see Elijah & get a "great many funds" as Mr. Hardy says, and get the other things you mention to send when these go. Almira will find collar cut out, and shirt yoke pattern somewhere in the bundle. Almedas bag also I will put in. My pickles are nice. They please me much. I put them in sharp cold vinegar, did nothing more to them, and in 4 days they were real good pickles, all made - green, hard & crispy as you please - so much better than those miserable Boston things - Musical Convention commences tomorrow continues 4 days - mean to go some if Samuel can leave. Prof. I. B. Woodbury from N. Y. is head. What a piece of work they have in N. Y. with Jenny Lind. I should love to hear her, but would not pay $125. for it I think. Richard Thurston preached yesterday P. M. How clever and sad he looks, and how exactly like all the rest of them. Ann Thurston has got home.

I am tired and sleepy - 'Tis 'bout nine o'clock - I'll go to bed - so good night, dear ones all - good night.

Tues. morn. I'll do up the bundle and send to Eliah today to wait for a chance to go. Samuel will get the other things and put in, and I will not go up today. Please give the 'kerchief to Persis, and do please to write to me oftener. Love to all - good bye. Lucy.

If you are going to color yellow this fall, Mother, will you color this flannel, but don't do it on purpose on any account, as I don't care a fig. In haste. Margaret Crosby and Augusta Mann called last week - were most pleased with Mr. Temple of any of the Students at Commencement, and knew nothing about him previously. How shall I keep Charles Harlow off?

Lucy F.

Sept. 16 1850

Sept. 30. 1850.

Dear Folks

Spose 'tis time for me to begin a letter to you, as I received one from you Sat. night. Our husband went to Bangor and got it and Eliab - while he was gone John came, so we had company you see. I took them all three into the larder, - had just been baking you know, besides having a dish of Blanc mange, of which they are all extravagantly fond - I guess they had a good time! First frost last night. Covered up our squashes & tomatoes. Samuel gone to Belfast by boat today - back in stage this afternoon to see that miserable Capt. Jellison, who has "given up the ship", sent it to Bangor, & not paid over anything. Samuel & Thurston think he'll prove a rogue, but S. will write you about it after he comes home. I got my washing all out in the line before ten today. Why, I wonder did not Mrs. Lee stop here? Tell her I don't mean to go see her any more, if she will go right by me without stopping. Perhaps she don't want me to. Samuel & I attended Musical Convention Concerts two evenings - he could not leave in the day time. One eve paid, 50 - the other, John being a member of the Association, got us free tickets - real good - sung one piece forty seven pages long, in the Dulcimer - "Oratorio of Absalom". I'll send a Programme if I can. Dulcimer is a new book - some of I. N. Metcalf's tunes

in it. Two fine female singers from Hartford - soprano and alto, and Prof. I. B. Woodbury from N. York - Writes poetry, and music to match!

When we went to get 4 cent cloth for Mother - the last order - they asked 4½ - Everybody but Stickney asked five. I thought it could not be got so long. Had to pay 4½ for mine. Much obliged for your suggestions about C. H., but I shall have no need to profit by them at present - the poor fellow is in Augusta Insane Hospital - his father went with him last week. Poor fellow, I pity him - am glad he is gone there - he may be cured.

Thurs. Oct. 3. Samuel is going to Bangor - guess I'll finish and send this. Dea. Romulus Haskins with his lady and eldest daughter called Monday P. M. Apologized much for not calling before - have intended to call ever since I was married! I guess after all my smartness to wash Monday, I got a shocking cold. I guess too, that our vegetable marrow squashes are superb - I'll save you some seed. Had some for dinner yesterday. Have gathered some Pennyroyal for you too - believe it does not grow there. S. went to Belfast Monday - saw Jellison - got no money - said he had none, but will pay when he can - Samuel is doubtful. Sold the Brandywine to one Capt Small of Deer Island, for $1000. to go fishing. Pays ½ next January & ½ a year from then. Meanwhile the vessel remains in their hands. If he does not make the first payment according to agreement, they will take it back. I suppose Samuel would tell you all about it much better than

I can, but I want to send this tomorrow, and fear he
will not have time. Am glad Charles has paid his note
I *would* *not* borrow again - pretty advice for me to
give too, when Samuel is even now doing the same
thing! We look a *very* *little* for Anna next week.
Am afraid I shall not be able to keep her here
long, but Mother, I do think if you and she and
Almeda are all there together, you might and ought
one or *some* of you to stay with me part of the
winter. Just because I am married and can't live
at home, that I cannot have the privilege of seeing
any of you - Jose, you send 'em along, won't you, that's
a good brother. Spent an evening at Mr. Crosby's last
week - Man gone to Cattle Show, and Margaret to Boston
Mrs. Crosby about alone - Mr. Temple has not been
to apologize or to give him the stockings only in [illegible] as
the meeting house at a Concert - I think Elijah ought
to make a business of it, and go see him. Cowper, In-
delible Ink &c. shall be attended to by first opportu-
nity. John made me a bottle of Ink t'other day.
What beautiful weather - warm as summer almost
a fine rain last night - cleared off very warm -
Almira Dorr has a daughter a few weeks old. Lucy
has not yet written to me. How I do write with nothing
to say. In much haste *as usual* - good bye

Sis Lucy.

Mr. J. M. Metcalf
Milo

[illegible] Hampden
Feb. 30 185[illegible]
Rec. 4.

Lucy & Samuel Hampden
Oct. 18 1850

Oct. 18. Belvoir - 1850.

Folks

O, dear, I am so tired of expecting & waiting for Nannie to come. Thought to be sure she would come yesterday. no boat today - she must come tomorrow. I suppose you in particular, Mother, will ridicule me greatly, if not burn me in elegy or effigy or something else, when I tell you "I been sick" and haint got well yet! I suppose I took cold last Monday, but am sure I don't know how or when. Felt rather foolish after washing & all the evening - and Tuesday morning got up with bad headache, pain in back and limbs, & for that matter all over, jumping pulse, and dysentery to boot - groaned all night with pain in back and limbs like aching fingers when very cold - been lolling on the Sofa about half dressed ever since - slept tolerably last night though & feel better today. Is there such a thing as inflamation of the Diaphragm? I have had much severe pain & soreness right across the pit of my stomach - hurt me to cough terribly and to move "every which way". Samuel has made bread two or three times - capital too - and Jane done all the rest of the work, like a woman - every thing in the world she could do for me, & took care nicely. She is a jewell - has earned cents enough rising at 5 in the morning to get some cunning little presents for the children only I helped her out with 3 or 4 coppers. Lead pencils for Lucy & James, little german silver thimble for Lissie, A.B.C. card for Charlie besides a shawl pin for Albina, which will be forwarded when Ann goes. If you read serpent for superb this time you must remember that I write in my lap, head aching. I don't know

but I have a sort of slow fever. Feel better forenoons & worse afternoons. Dysentery gone, but head & back ache & sort of sprawlless. You need not expect [struck] to send Ann right up there — I shall keep her here a spell at any rate — It is lonesome here all day with no body to speak to. She may go up & make a short visit! and then she or you come & live with me a spell — I think you orto — Josie, you will spare one of them part of the time wont you? Your good letter of the 8 — was duly rec'd — should have answered it by today's mail if had felt well enough. Hope to let you know by Wood. that Ann has come. Sis Doc walked down here last week Wednes. after school with woolen sack, shawl, rubber boots, & without any dinner? So not well at all — wanted to get warm she said. Has had her hair all shaved off — wears false hair in front, & a pretty blue velvet cap on the back of her head. I went to a barber & had mine shingled two or 3 weeks since. It was thin & dry & uneven — Like it much now — most wish I had had it shaved, Sissie's cap looks so pretty! Mr. James Crosby died suddenly in Portland a few days since — You know he has had a heart disease a good while. His brother Timothy has been very sick a long time with Dysentery. Has to be fed with a spoon — so low they do not tell him of his brother's death. Have I heard from Hannah Moore? It has been raining for two Sabbaths & I have not been to meeting. Have spoken with Mrs. Jewett but once I believe since I came from Milo — she was then writing to Hannah & would send love. Albina's things shall be got & sent by Ann or first opportunity. I sent yesterday by William Holman, Samuel's map by mistake, instead of Joseph's. S. scoffs greatly because you turn your letters upside down so much & write in so many different places. There has nobody at all been in

here since I have been sick - don't know but it would be one of the impossibles to hire a girl if I was ever so needy - [illegible] I consider Jane as good as any common one - seems as if she could hardly be the same child we had here last summer. Is Joseph able to give lessons? I very much fear he ought not, to take care of him, if he won't of himself. Rickers - I have expended a great deal of sympathy on her at least, and expect to much more. I had heard nothing of Mr. Wilson - did not know but he was at Milo before now - E. saw Mr. Temple recently & gave him socks, but said he knew not what to say by way of apology & therefore said nothing - he has not been down here. Samuel is much confined in the mill, you know - we see not many people & hear not much news - What three wonderful things Congress made out to do at last - two good - one execrable, vile. Flogging in Navy, slave trade in Dis. Col. and Fugitive slave. Great time in Bangor last week - slave catcher after one of the waiters 'board the Gov. Waiter run off to Can. might just as well have staid. What will you do without Aunt & Uncle Henry? Why I shall hardly know how to go to Milo! Father Furber's folks think of leaving Milo in Feb. & taking up their abode with us till they start - John has made me some nice indelible ink - I'll send you a little by Ann. I found a pretty specimen of Aster - don't know whether the same grows at Milo or not - will send it for Josie's inspection - also by Ann some pretty flower seeds. Star of Bethlehem, I believe - from Mrs. Shapley's garden - Almeda's heifer - pity, pity. must she lose it entirely? Samuel will write you about his last trade with Thurston - Brandywine, Fletcher accounts &c. Well, doubtless it is most night - Samuel wrote on 'tother page at noon, so I shall have to stop short - Painful task, head & [illegible] [illegible] got - have sewed a little today - looked at my work most every day. [illegible] and Mary called here on their way home from James Crosby's funeral "What did

I suppose Joseph will wish to know about the Good Schr Brandywine. Well, S. L. G and myself bargained her to Tho's Small of Deer Island for $1130. including three new sails. Rec'd in pay't 13 Bbls pickled herring $3.50 per bbl. he gave notes ½ Jan next and ½ in one year from then. he represented himself as having to the am't of $2000, and what we otherwise learnt of him was favorable. Last Sat I sold to S. L. the Fletcher action $948, a note vs G. W. Wingate $67, and my own note for $65; for the Small notes $558; and one a/c vs Capt Jellison for $85; Think I had rather have the Brandywine affair than the Fletcher in dollars and cents we pent one equal to the other, had a letter from father to day Wm Bunn offers $200 for the Point farm in thick boots at wholesale prices, think I will sell it Saw Mr Goss to day he inquired particularly for you says he is doing quite well, would like to sell my boots if I trade with Bunn

The new Hall is fast proceeding to an end, will be quite a respectable house. I think Capt Kendall as good a man as can be got for the Senator she has made two trips since Sep 10th paid $166,

Margaret go to Boston for? Why to see her friends in Biddeford to be sure. Did I spell it right? Letter from Pa today — glad to hear of Parson Wilson's arrival.

Tuesday Eve Oct 12th 1858

Dear Mother

Dr McKeen has been to see Lucy this afternoon and seems think very particular care must be taken of her for the present. he has ordered her to her room which she must not leave at all, now a hired girl to take care of her would aggravate instead of healing. and it seems to us that either you or Almeida must so arrange at home as to come here by Stage Thursday, perhaps we are asking too much but I feel that it is of much importance that there be some one to take very special care of L. We are expecting them every Boat and she can be forwarded to Milo as soon as in a fit condition to go, Please to take in your Knapsack some peices of old white flannel as I can find none but red Excuse the lack of length to this epistle as I am much hurried to night S.W.T.

The disease seems to be a severe Coff with great soreness of the whole person and I gather from what Dr Mc said that he afraid of the Lung fever Lucy send Love to all (and Josie) If it isnt a Taylorism

Samuel W. F. Hampden
Oct. 22. 1850

Mrs A M Metcalf
Milo

Dear Mother

Here I am sitting up in my pillowed & blanketed chair yet. I hardly know whether to tell you I have been getting ~~better or~~ worse the past week I think perhaps I have taken a little cold some way. Samuel is going to see the Dr. Mc. tonight. My ravenous appetite has taken wings, and I "hant got nothing to eat." Sometimes I think I shall be a weak sister & go into consumption & then I think I shant, which last conclusion is probably the most reasonable. I am not low spirited and I dont think I'm spleeny, I guess I shall go & see Mother as soon as I get well enough. Almeda is just as good as the squash pies & custards & all the good things she makes. I am so weak is the principal trouble — fating my cough

Lucy wishes you to send Fitch's book by Ann. you see she is too weak to write I think she is not quite as well as when Ann went when the Dr was here he thought the air would do her good but she has not yet been out. the air has come in too much through the paper over head when the wind blew hard and so she has taken a cold but she has been careful and I hope she will get over it but she coughs some and we are going to see the Dr

have Isaac come down with A and stay at
the R Rs meeting and I will stay till he goes back
a day or two after A comes Samuel is waiting
looks like for storm so must send to night

Hampden Dec. 3. 1857.

To the dear ones at home -

On this bright & beautiful morning sitting here in my chair, I am permitted to write a little in short - Mr. Micawber, ahem. Well, I will begin about I as usual. I am getting along nicely now - gaining strength daily, only I cannot walk. Samuel has carried me out to my meals three days - went out to breakfast this morning - also he carried me out on the piazza Sat. and yesterday, and held me there about five minutes each time - all I have been out of doors yet - no more suitable weather. I was picked into the sitting room yesterday while Ann opened the window & gave my room & bed an airing. Yesterday I knitted almost an inch - first time I have had my work at all - feel enough better today to pay for it - expect to get well surprisingly now! Jane was quite unwell a day or two after Almeda went home - took some Oil & is very well now - made it hard for Ann to have us both to wait upon some, and the work to do besides. Her back is weak & troubles her, but I think if Jane is well, she will get along easier in future. Jane has been so turned about for a few weeks, that she is hardly herself, but will come round again soon I think. Almeda did not seem well at all for two or three days before she went home. I am afraid she worked too hard & got too tired here. I suppose I must not write any more now. Be kissed & loved, all of you, for me. Do write to us - good bye. Lucy.

much obliged to [illegible] for being so thoughtful & prompt about the Liniment — I think it does me good —

Lucr Dec. 3 1830

Hampden
Dec. 8 185[illegible]

Sabbath day Dec 8th

Dear [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] contained. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] P. 6. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible], — Samuel is ready to take her to Milo; — he may be obliged to go into the woods in a week, [illegible] and [illegible]

[illegible] good and [illegible]

[illegible]

she will find it necessary to avoid walking
[illegible]. If you [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] that a [illegible]
[illegible] black [illegible]
[illegible]
damask or hair cloth, — which is to fix up yourself as new would but make a [illegible] of it, —
we think that a short, stiff, dark [illegible] at
12½ per [illegible], would be the [illegible] as well
as [illegible]; it might be tacked together, so
as to be easily washed when necessary, which
need not be for two years. If you decide upon
this latter course, I will get it, if desired.
I am intending [illegible] the city once, I hope not
more. I get along pretty well, there is some
little sewing to be done [illegible], some
I want to do for myself. We eat pig, are
going to chickens — We would gladly
migrate the week after thanksgiving, if
[illegible] is able. Mrs Finnigan is going to
clean the pigs feet tomorrow — [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] my [illegible]
of principles [illegible] write [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] of [illegible]
[illegible]. The [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] school, 50 scholars.
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
he can do so, which I hope he will, [illegible]
[illegible] sake, for he needs [illegible]
knowledge and experience [illegible] business
would give him, but if [illegible] has not al-
ready engaged his [illegible], — I [illegible]
will not [illegible] however [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]

Mr. [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] possible [illegible] able [illegible]

[illegible] Thanksgiving, friday or saturday, but I don't know. My back is very weak, but the rest of me gets strong daily. Samuel may be obliged to go over before that, even - Mill shut down last saturday. Mrs. Finnegan [illegible]ing to kill biddies today I expect - scrabble to eat them up before we go. If I can't go to Milo in one day, can take two for it, can't I?

We think that some stout dark patch will be preferable for the lounge, as it will last a good long time, be much more easily put on, & not look so "try to do something", besides being cheaper. I think that barrels make the prettiest & easiest ends for a lounge - Charles Smith has one made so I understand - resemble our round end sofa - Ann says, please not color the stockings till we come with some more. I have not rode out yet - no suitable weather for going. S. has carried me out on the piazza sittings me out to breakfast, dinner & supper - well he is stout. I frequently get up before light [illegible] this morning. We are through "Copperfield" - O Ma! you'll read it I know, good bye - Lute

I knit more or less every day - generally less.

Hampden

1850

Dear Mother

Half sitting up and half lying abed I'll write a little. I've been nearer sick abed than any thing else for about a fortnight. Last few days that Mrs. Stevenson was here, she did the work and took care of me too! How I did wish she wasn't here, but she was pretty clever. Since she went away Samuel & Jane have managed grandly, only Jane is yet a child you know — thoughtless forgetful &c. School begins today, — intend to have her go.

The things you wanted, I intended to have got to send by Eliah certainly, but from day to day have striven and could not get able to go to Bangor. Eliah was down here to dinner yesterday, & he & Samuel concluded that you had better come down — but the more I think of it the more I think we can get along, and you ought not to leave Joseph. It will be a hard jaunt for you over the bad roads, and I shall get along — I felt better yesterday and today. Mrs. Finnegan is here washing. Skunk devoured thirteen eggs that had been set on a fortnight. Whose butter was sent, yours or Almeda's? Mooly gives good milk for which I'm glad — I don't love milk after it has been measured out & poured round into half a dozen dishes, perhaps all of 'em clean! I seem to have lost all my strength — If I walk from the bedroom out into the kitchen & back again, my legs tremble under me, & my stomach feels as if there was nothing but all-gone-ness left in it. In short as Mr. Micawber would say (you know Isaac) I am quite

indisposed. Samuel has got some medicine from Dr. Prince twice, & means to get the Dr. himself soon I believe, but I won't let him. I don't like doctors. Mem Crosby is going to teach school. Pa is quite cranky by spells with the hypo. I want dreadfully you should see my rug - have half a mind to send it up by Libe. guess I'll ~~send~~ home your rags again, as they'll be of no particular use to me ~~now~~. With them and what I had left you might make a beautiful rug. I wish you would - tis not a great job, after you get about it. borrow Mehitable's hook. I thought I should make another this spring, but shall not now, as Jane's clothes & Samuel's need my time soon as I am well enough. I made Jane a brown linen sack last week, ~~lying~~ also trimmed with white braid - looks quite neat - her "go to meeting" fix for this summer. I have a darling Cactus in bloom - one large flower, six inches across - been open since thursday - begins to shut up now. We've got a little garden down on the terraces. Some posies, beans, peas radishes, lettuce, pepper grass, ~~tomatoes~~ (only they won't come ~~up~~) Nasturtiums, Cucumbers, squashes &c. Samuel has no employment, either present or prospective, but to dig in the garden & take care of me. They have a great muss at the mill & boarding house now and then - men want him to come back - Hathorne does too, but won't pay much. I tell him tis a good thing that he's out of business now. but he feels rather uneasy sometimes. I think he & Isaac had better lay their heads together and set up something, I want to see Joseph or have you write more particular

early about him, whether he is going backwards or forwards or both. Dr. Paine thought from his last letter that he might be better. If I had been well enough to do anything - I am sure I don't know what I should have done about getting a carpet after receiving your last letter.

What a sight of beggars we do have here. T'other night a woman, very much agitated came, said they lived right in the neighborhood, told where, about half a mile above here - moved there lately, sick husband &c. Any thing would be acceptable - Samuel said he might as well give her money as ~~food~~, especially as she had to cook it herself - so he gave her, 25 intending to inquire next day & if they needed, help them - but behold, on inquiry no such woman or family were to be found or heard of.

I think E's. dag. is first rate. Whiskers improve <u>him</u> - detract sumat from the length of visage. Libe will tell you how I worried to clean house, change carpets &c. for Mrs. Stevenson to come, when I had a bad cold & was not well. I guess I won't write any more - do write to me. Soon as I get well, I will get your shawl &c. Black Thibets I believe you concluded.

Bangor
May 14. 1851

Bangor May 14 - 1851.

Dear Mother

The folks have all gone - went in the six o'clock boat this morning - Samuel also went to Old Town in the six o'clock train - You may imagine that it seems pretty still and lonesome here. I hardly know what to do with myself. I don't know how Frances is going to get along. She knows nothing about doing up linen - never did any - never cooked any meat with stuffing in it, or eat any so cooked - says she can cook common food if I tell her about it. She seems very pleasant, willing to learn and wants I should tell her how I want things done, and if she does not do them right &c. It will be more care for me, than to have a more capable and experienced girl, but perhaps we shall get along well enough. Dr. Mc Ruer called all of his own accord, when he found we had moved here - was very particular in his inquiries - says he thinks I am mistaken as to the nature of my complaint - he may be mistaken he says, but he thinks it is a spinal difficulty - left me a different preparation of iron with quinine, wine &c. recommends cold bathing, to be out doors as much as possible, and especially recommended sea bathing and sea air when it comes warm weather. I don't know

what to think. He ~~says~~ thinks I shall get well, but it will take some time. I feel in a hurry for you to get the sheep sheered, your wool picked, and all necessary matters attended to, so as to come and comfort us. Do not worry now, and think I need you greatly, only when you are ready, come. When is Isaac coming? Samuel has selected the apple trees. O. he wrote about it. I forgot - we shall send them and the other things by stage, if there is no other opportunity, before long. I got patterns and washed the gingham, both pieces - do not exactly like the blue, but all the other patterns faded. I think she will like the other. very stout and durable, certainly - only, 12½ per yd. blue the same. wire cord eight cents a stick - Coronation cord, one stick six cents; please return the other four. 13½ yds of the gingham - just what there was in the piece. Thread I have forgotten, will ask Samuel. I send pattern of sun bonnet - just like Jane's I think. If not right, you can alter it. Pantalettes, pieces of dress, &c, like Jane's old dresses, for Almedas

Lizzie has decided to go and see Ann, and go the rest of her journey alone. I sent the shirt - she purchased an elegant dress for her $1.50. per yard - mantilla of the same. lace trimming, wide - $1.00 per yard. I believe I have a bit of the silk which I will put in. Samuel has hired a steam mill in Brewer opposite the City for $1200.00 a year - takes possession to-morrow - Joat Palmer and Ben Johnson furnish the

logs - he will write about the trade - perhaps I should not tell it right - I am sorry for one thing - he will not be able to come home to dinner usually - has hired an engineer & one millman - I don't know how many men he has - gets them boarded for $2.25 per week - he may do well, and may fail out. Old Senator is in good plight and doing nicely. Samuel concluded it was useless to wait for a surveyor's appointment.

Please by the first offer my black lace veil which was left. A man is waiting to take the bundle & Apple trees so I must finish in great haste - I have rode out twice - Prof. Shepard & wife called just as I was eating my dinner - the poor bashful man was so confused when I wheeled myself into his presence that he advanced & retreated two or three times before he ventured to shake hands - A darling good man - Mr. & Mrs. Crosby were here to dine one day. I told Dr. Mc. about my lameness, which inclined him still more to the opinion that mine is a spinal disease. He had a similar case once when for months the foot was exceedingly painful & sore while it looked just as well as ever - Mine continues to trouble me slightly by spells - today it burns & almost smarts, and I notice the skin is all peeling off over the whole foot. Sam'l has subscribed for the Independent - I have read Hist. of Josephine and we are reading "Great Cities by Todd author of "Students Manual". Very good indeed. I want to hear from Jane very much - tell her I want to know if she is a very good girl -

1/2 pound linen thread - the same of cotton -
linen 5 shillings per pound - the cotton 4/

Folks at home.-

Bangor
May 27 1851

Bangor May 27 - 1851.

My dear Mother

Isaac arrived here rather unexpectedly last Saturday - we were looking for him and James with the cows Monday. The man is very particular - won't have cows in his pasture until June, and must be taken out every night - which makes it rather inconvenient for us, as the pasture joins our yard and we have no room in the yard to make a yard - There are some twenty cows roaming up and down street, lowing, and apparently half starved, all the time - ours might have been turned out with them for a few days, though I suppose it is better not - We shall expect to see Jamie or somebody else down with the kine the last of this week. Samuel thinks he shall get a little pig, and put all the milk and cream which we cannot use, together with a sufficient quantity of meal, into the same, as with our chance for making butter, and an inexperienced housemaid, it would be of little use to try to make butter - Our neighbors, many of them have cows, so there is little chance to sell milk. Isaac went from here in the Waterville stage at 4 o'clock this morning, bought him a very pretty hat and vest yesterday. He read most all the time he was here, though he pretended he told

me every thing there was to tell about Milo folks. Why didn't you write particularly about Olive Sargent. I was so much surprised. Frances does better than I feared - but does not know every thing. I have to watch and know how every thing goes - She is so good natured and wants to do so well, that I cannot but like her - probably on the whole, I could not expect to do better - we cannot expect to get all good things in one person. Prof. Shepard gave out his subject for Sabbath before last "The new patch upon the old coat". told about putting on patches in a great many ways, and on a great many things. Said when the patch cleaves off, as it will be very apt to do, remember it is a patch of your own putting on, and beware not to call it falling from grace &. Have you been to Brownville yet? I forgot to ask Isaac. If not, do go immediately, before Ina Lee she goes away. Samuel carried his coat to the clothes cleansers, and it came back looking as nice as a new coat almost, only the sticking plaster was not off, which was the principal trouble you know - so I sent for a bottle of "Oil Soap", with which I wetted the spot, & then with a sponge & warm soft water washed it off, & behold every bit of the spot was gone. I then applied it in like manner to the big oil spot on my bedroom carpet, with a like good effect - took it every bit out - looks just as well as any part of it, and all no more than five minutes work. It is a valuable article for cleaning coat collars & all sorts of bad spots in cotton, linen & woolen goods.

So get the folks to write once in a while.

wonder we never knew of it before. Ma Furber told me.
Had a letter from them at Buffalo - They all went
to Niagara falls. Lizzie left them the day they wrote
to go see Ann. Margaret Crosby walked up here last
Saturday morning to see me, and back at night.
The same dear girl as ever. I expect to ride down
there soon as I get my <u>new</u> gown. I have bought
a small plaid, very dark morning gingham, fast
colors, for /9 per yd. and a black all wool delaine
for, 50 - expect a dressmaker tomorrow to cut them.
Shall have them made open before, large and loose.
You have not written a word how Almeda was suited
with the girl's dresses &c. I thought she would like
them. I have had my bonnet colored black, &
simply a black watered silk cape behind - no other
trimming. I have rode out three times, besides once
in the big chair! I wish you could see our great
big Cactus posy. Isaac says, Mother, you want him to
write to you when to come down here. I will save him
the trouble, and tell you not at all, if it will be <u>really</u>
<u>very irksome</u> and troublesome - but if not, we should
be "very happy to see you" as soon as you get ready. I
get along very comfortably, but I do want somebody for
company besides Frances very often - we have breakfast
at six. Samuel goes right away, & does not usually
come home before seven - it makes long days. My little
Daisy is blooming beautifully. Samuel has got some
little white marble grave stones, with "Annie" put on them.
Good bye Affectionately Lucy.

The letter I wrote about from Concord <u>N.H.</u> - was from Mary Towne - I only wanted
to cheat Isaac. If I have it written in a hurry! Don't know as you can possibly
read it.

Mrs. Anna M. Metcalf:
Milo
Maine

Bangor
June 6 1851

Bangor June 6. 1851.

Dear Mother

I'll begin a letter today to send by
James when he goes home. I have just finished one
to [illegible], and dispatched James to the P.O. with it.
I received one from him yesterday dated at N.Y.
City and mailed at Albany. He finds no prospect
of employment on the Hartford & Fishkill R.R. and
is going on farther. Thought it probable he might
be in Westfield this week and wished us to write to
him there. You have probably had letters from him
before now. He has purchased grave stones in Boston.

I rode down to Hampden yesterday to visit at
Mr. Crosby's. The same good people as ever. got some
tired, but feel quite rested now. James seems to enjoy
life finely here. We had a great fire Wednes. which
of course was quite an exciting time for him. The largest
fire there has been for some years. Six dwelling houses
Eatles' [?] & Whittier's stove foundry besides several shops,
and with great difficulty saved the Universalist Mee-
ting house. The lower side is black from top to bottom.
Cleared all out on the lower part of Baptist hill and
Exchange street. Very high wind so that roofs of houses
caught fire many times way up State St. most half
a mile. Broke out again in the night and burnt a
brick stable belonging to, and joining the Hammat [?] house,

in one tenement of which Mrs. Griffin, sister to Mrs. Dr. Shepherd of Lebec, abides, it looks desolate enough down there - I am very glad you are coming so soon Mother. I am [illegible] however, I would certainly wait until after the Conference - I am glad you did at last go to Brownville. I had my de laine dress (all wool) made large in every part & capable of being made still larger in hopes Almeda will want to buy it one of these days - it seemed necessary for me to have one, but as my [illegible] is so dark, I shall not need a black one to wear till it is worn out. I send Joseph's "Charles [illegible]" for Almeda, also pieces to help make pants. I think, Mother, that you had better decide to get a handsome black dress when you come down - [illegible] or something really nice - I have even partially engaged a dressmaker to cut it!

With the help of Eliab and Samuel, I have purchased a small, very plain, mourning pin in which to keep some of Joseph's hair - in going & [illegible] it marked with his name on the back. Eliab has had two likenesses taken from the original, one of Isaac took, the other Eliab and I want to keep here, and the original is to be sent to you again. Uncle Joseph's could not be taken. One letter read from Buffalo and another from St. [illegible] Ill. - All prosperous [illegible] enjoying the [illegible] much. You don't know how odd it seems to get on tight dresses again - [illegible] is through. I think I am [illegible] a little [illegible].

The greatest trouble I have with Frances is that she is like Lucretia Haskell, only more so. There are some things which it is not easy, and hardly possible to tell anyone, if they have not discrimination & sense of propriety enough to find it out for themselves — which she could hardly understand if told. I have wished for Almeda's faculty, or Almeda herself, many times, to hint things into her! On the whole she is very desirable help — we cannot expect everything right.

There are two Vols. of the N. E. Farmer here, which Isaac has got bound — they look very nice & I hardly dare to send them lest some accident should happen to them — presume Charles is in no hurry for them. Success to Charlie with his "Melons", say I. Another great fire night before last — supposed to be by an incendiary — fire in an old store at the corner of Exchange & State Streets — two or three rum holes, whereat I am glad. We don't know whether to send James home afoot or put him aboard the stage.

Sarah Harlow calling the other day, I mentioned incidentally, that Isaac had been here recently whereat she immediately took it upon herself to blush crimson red. I don't know whether to send your bundle by James or not. I don't know of anything more to write — good bye — Affectionately,

Susy.

Bangor

June 12 1851

Bangor June 12 1851.

Dear Mamma

It is a lovely morning - the warmest, I think, we have had this summer - can you believe it - I have not had a fire this morning - and have only been to the kitchen stove once to warm my feet. I have been sitting in the front door with my knitting work, in the warm sun, an hour, and now having read in "Prescott's Conquest of Mexico" till my eyes ache, I will while away a little time writing to you, though I don't know as I have anything particularly worth writing.

While I sat in the door, one Mr. Kellogg, a student, whom we met at Mr. Crosby's, passed by on the other side the street. He looked at me, and I at him, two or three times, till I could hardly keep from laughing. He dared not bow to me till I did to him and I *felt* so foolish sitting there sunning myself in such a conspicuous situation, that I could do nothing but *look* foolish too. He promised to come up here and sing some day - I shall have to laugh about it when he does!

I am desirous to know how James fared and how he got home. I was really afraid he would suffer with the cold. Mr. [illegible] has bought the cow for thirty dollars. Samuel has bought a pig

six weeks old for $3.50. Our Mooly gives a pretty good mess of very good milk. I suppose James has told you about Mr. Carr, in whose pasture she lives by day. James milks usually.

Elliot has really decided to leave Mr. Brown's as soon as Frank gets home, which will probably be in a week or two. I have not seen him since he had a talk with Mr. Brown, and do not know whether he intends to engage himself somewhere else at present, or not. I should think he had better take a time to rest now for a few weeks at least. I mean to try to get him to go up after you, it will be so much easier and pleasanter than to come by stage. At any rate, whether he goes or not, I shall expect you just as soon as you have been to County Conference, and got your wool attended to.

Two young ladies in our neighborhood "appeared out" in the new and fashionable costume, night before last — short dresses (to the knees) and Turkish pants. They did look very pretty. Samuel said so, and you know he is not usually fond of innovations. He says I may wear them! Don't you think you will conform when you get down here? I think the fashion will [illegible] universally. A very respectable young gentleman took one lady on each arm and promenaded with them.

My daisy is out in bloom beautifully. I smoke it with tobacco to destroy the lice. The yard

people across the way the use of that remedy. I am quite sociably acquainted with them. I wish you would bring Charlie down with you when you come. What a deal of comfort I could get out of him!

I wish you would bring two or three dozen good fresh eggs when you come if you have them and can conveniently. We don't get fresh ones. I have got both my dresses made. like them well. We have not got a bit of a garden made yet, and I hardly think we shall do any thing about it. Samuel is so busy all the time. He has considerable surveying to do, and the mill to attend to. now they run by night, it is a good deal of care. When he has any thing [illegible] do, he "lends might to it," too much, I tell him [illegible] [illegible] the spring all the time. I tell him tisn't [illegible]

I think you should pack up, "bag & baggage" every thing you will want for a year, and then if you get uneasy, you can go back any time, you know. But ~~all summer~~ till winter is the least I can let you off with. Why, I want somebody to talk to. Samuel wouldn't object to talking. not at all. but I do. Well, I have made out quite a letter, when I did not expect to write a page when I began. Cornelia and Albina may be laying their plans to come here with [illegible] the children about the first of sleighing. Tell Lucy to improve all her time, and learn fast, for Uncle Samuel says she may come & stay here and go to the High School a year or two, as soon as

She will get [illegible] fitted. I will inquire what are the necessary qualifications as soon as I [illegible] [illegible]. Good bye all — Affectionately, [illegible]

If I mistake not, this is the season for Pitcher plants, and I earnestly beg that by some means a good specimen be obtained, pressed, & brought to me — Do not delay — they'll all be gone!

Mrs. Anna M. [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] you can [illegible], [illegible]. I wish you would [illegible] a [illegible] to Dr. [illegible]. You know Samuel could not make change — and his father forgot it.
I wish you would bring my old Edinborough shawl. I have nothing but a "go to meeting" to put over me when I lie down. [illegible] I am depending upon her to save me a great lot of her [illegible] peas — I [illegible] and dry it standing up, so it may be [illegible]. I'll pay her at the rate of $4.20.00 per ton!

Deer Isle
Sept. 4. 1851

Deer Isle, Sept. 4 1851.

Dear Mother & Sister

It is most tea time. I have been waiting for Samuel to bring home some ink, as the good lady Webb had none in the house. We got along nicely - had to wait more than two hours for the steamer at Searsport, which did make us feel almost impatient. arrived at Deer Isle about 1/2 past one where we found carriages in waiting to take passengers to the town, or N. W. Harbor, as it is called. There are a great many places in the incorporated town of Deer Isle, besides this, as for instance, S. W. Harbor, S. E. Harbor, Burnt Cove, The Landing, The Reach, Little Deer Isle, Isle of Haut, &c. This, however, is the principal place in the kingdom. The whole town contains about 4000 inhabitants. We conclude on the whole it is a tolerable decent kind of a place - better than we expected. We have really a nice boarding place - the most neat and quiet little place that you can imagine, overlooking the "N. W. Harbor". The whole family consists of one very small and very smart woman called "Widow Webb", one boy rejoicing in the two endearing titles of Bub & Charlie (about eleven years old) one black cat with four white feet and a white nose, and one solitary Canary bird. Withal a very quiet, sober, cozy little family. We occupy the Parlor and adjoining bedroom. We judge from furniture

&c. that the woman has "seen better days". In the parlor are two really elegant but rather old fashioned bureaus with moveable glasses, two handsome card tables with rich covers, and Marseilles outer covers, a nice work table a very nice mahogany side board, a sofa, two stuffed rocking chairs & 1/2 doz. stuffed common chairs, two large handsome pictures framed. The woman is about 50 years old I should judge - her husband has been dead seven years. She seems very kind & good. We were both very tired last night - went to bed at dark and slept about twelve hours! Samuel says he feels weak today but on the whole better than yesterday - my back feels the unusual exertion of yesterday some of course, but I really feel as if the salt water will do me good. I bathed in it this morning. It made my skin look as red as a beet all over. The air is cool, but really refreshing. Capt. Small lives at Burnt Cove - about 4 miles from here. Samuel thinks of going to see him tomorrow. A big nigger on board the Governor, the cook I believe, (Samuel thought he would weigh two hundred) got very mad & crazy, threatened to kill himself and others, was saucy to the Capt. and withal became so furious that it took five or six men to handle him - They got him down, tied his feet together and his hands behind him, and stowed him away in the forecastle - poor fellow, I pitied him, to lie in that situation all day. The Capt. said he never knew him to have such a spell before. Samuel saw him - I did not. There is a mill near here running now

which has been built 70 years. There are some very ancient looking buildings here. A real old fashioned meeting house - a congregationalist minister settled - has been here 18 or 19 years - his name is Adams - The only preaching they have in this part of the Island. Fresh fish are said to be abundant - Mackerel & Tom Cod - Clams abound. Some say they are good every month that has an R. in it, and consequently began to be eatable the first day of Sept. Others say they are at all times good. The boats are so arranged now that we can only get away from this place on Monday, except we go to Belfast, and from there by stage, which you know I cannot do. We shall probably remain until a week from Mon[day] as we can hardly tell whether we receive benefit or n[ot] if we go away next Monday. It seems too bad to come right away & see so little of Fliah too. You must all take good care of yourselves & get along as well as you can without your Pa and Ma. We shall want you to write to us - do not fail and direct to Deer Isle. That is the name of our Post Office. You had probably better write very soon after receiving this, or we may not get it before we go home.

Friday morn - 7 A.M. Samuel does not feel so well this morning - he dipped himself in the salt water & got chilly before he got back to the house. He seems a little feverish, & did last night. If he is not gaining, we shall come next Monday - If we are ever so sick, we cannot get away before then. However, there is a Dr. here. Samuel has laid down & feels better - don't worry a bit about us. Mrs. Webb is as kind & good as can be. Aff. Lucy.

paid

Deer Isle Me }
Sept 5 }

Paid 3

Mr. [illegible] Metcalf,
Bangor
Maine

Bangor

Sept. 18 1857

Bangor Sept. 18 1857.

Dear Brother & Sisters

It is a warm, white, dusty September day. I have got a bad cold in my head so I feel, to say the least, uncomfortable, but as Mrs. Loring is going to Milo tomorrow, I will write a bit of a letter. She is shopping all the time - getting all sorts of nice things. She popped in quite unexpectedly last Tuesday. Mother had gone to Mrs. Brown's to dinner, by special invitation, to meet Mrs. Lee. Mr. and Mrs. Lee came home with her and spent the night. I was invited to Mrs. Brown's too, but would'nt go because Samuel was not asked!

Samuel is getting along nicely now - his appetite is good and he gains strength finely since he has done sweating nights. We only staid at Deer Isle five days. Samuel went into the salt water, got chilly, and brought on his fever again so we had to have the doctor four or five times. So we thought best to get home just as soon as he felt able to come. I think the sea air & bathing would have benefited me if we had staid longer & I had not been so tired and anxious about him all the time. Went Wednes. & back the next Mond. Cost us $15.00. Yesterday afternoon we all went to Hampden - Mrs. Crosby's. Eliot Brand's at Mr. Brown's.

He has not engaged there certainly for another year. The glasses came nicely - very much obliged [illegible]. Have you got your bonnet fixed yet & how much did it cost? I want to come to Philo dreffully, but it costs so much. Samuel has worked very hard this summer & thinks he shall not realise much - so we must be economical. It costs a good deal besides ~~the~~ wages to hire a girl. O, if I could only be well! I have had it in my heart to write letters separately to each of you, but I don't see why you can't all read them all & do just as well. Mother keeps threatening to go home, but I don't see how I can get along without her. I send a pr of Chemise for Jane. don't know how they will fit. Mr. Tibbits is boarding here now finishing his house. I am afraid Samuel will go into the woods again & I suppose he ought to, if he has a good chance. I wish I could be well enough to get along this winter with Jane & not hire a girl. Mother says she shall go down street again one of these days & will get baby's apron & Charley's waist. Mrs. Stat. Harlow died last Sabbath. She had been sick a long time, but her death was quite sudden at last. His fourth wife. Guess I must lie down now - good bye

Lucy -

Bangor
Oct. 11 1851

Bangor ~~Sep.~~ Oct. 11 - 1851.

Dear Mother

I will begin a letter to you because I feel like it, though I have nothing particular to write. Samuel says that he had concluded a bargain with Mr. [illegible] for his land. I guess he meant Samuel should have the land at any rate, for he came down from $500, to 400, willingly, and when Samuel told him he could not give more than four hundred, and should have to [illegible] he said, "Well Mr. [illegible], you may have the land for just what you have a mind to pay me, but did not wish to have anything said about it." So Samuel paid him $100. and got a receipt for it. He and "Lib" and myself spend our leisure time drafting now a days. Mr. [illegible] keeps drawing plans of [illegible] with [illegible] and crooks in them. He says he wants a job, and Samuel knows the expense of one of those little plain houses too well! Our neighbors, the Frogs took a long leap yesterday - way over the river. In other words, Mr. Frogs has moved over the other side, on Lincoln St. Mr. Lincoln has taken the [illegible] and Onions, and has been paid for the same. The basket he said he would take next time. A letter from Charles [illegible] lately for [illegible]. Uncle [illegible] [illegible] this fall. Why did not they come and see us? I wish [illegible] faint-hearted, but push ahead and make a [illegible]. [illegible]

possibly invent a house plan to suit us, and have a fire in the bedroom. We are almost inclined to give it up & try not to be sick in the winter. I hope you wrote to Isaac the very day after you got home - you took the newspaper price, so I have not written. The Pennington house progresses finely. Samuel was painting the fence yesterday. Frances has cleaned the front chamber - In sweeping the floor, among other rubbish, she found a dollar bill! dropped there, I suppose, by my Mother the morning she went away! The collection last sabbath was $63.00 Mr. Tibbits has subscribed $5.00. Mrs. Page's teeth distress her terribly yet. Ann Page thinks I am very lonely, & acts accordingly. Sarah Harlow is quite well. Uncle Natty's toe limps yet.

Oct. 12 - Mr. Lincoln has just called & taken the buckets. After he took them, he asked if Mr. Furber was going to pay for hauling ~~down~~ down things and for hauling up the flour and Onions. I told him that Mr Furber left word at Pendleton & Ross' for them to pay the freight when the flour was taken away - he looked real saucy and said, "this is a pretty way of doing business - I guess they won't get the things till they are paid for," and went off. Perhaps the folks at Pendleton's forgot to pay. ~~and~~ Samuel has not seen him to pay for hauling down the eggs, but at any rate he deserves a good talking to - I owe him a grudge for his impudence when he brought the chairs. I hope you will get this letter before you inquire for the things,

so as to know how to treat him & make explanations.

Oct. 14 Eliab & James arrived last night in the driving rain - Pendleton and Ross forgot to pay Lincoln. Eliab is going to see him today, settle with him, and then train him soundly for *sassing* me. The chickens are nice - I prepared them wholly myself - & they are now cooking for dinner - Eliab said last night that the others *stinked* - I don't know what he has done with them this morning. That Christopher & his mother are very provoking certainly, but I am afraid the lawsuit will cost more than it will come to before Charles is through with it. I recollect distinctly hearing Charles tell him he could not pay anything till winter, and Chase said it was all right, only if the boy wanted some little articles of clothing he should want Charles to get them - I think he mentioned a pr of boots. The horse is nice. Hannah has taken one pr of gloves - The rest will be attended to in due season. You did not write how Albina liked her things for Charlie. I got up stairs yesterday alone. You see I am quite smart. James has almost given out with her wrist. When I told her 7/ for the dress, she said she did not think it would be more than a dollar. I told her it was worth 9/ to me besides the trouble of making, as I should have to get another next spring - I don't know whether she will take it.

15 - The morning is [illegible] and James waiting to see if it will be pleasant today. Eliab saw the Chick-

yesterday and paid him up for all his past services. Then gave him a Spanish [illegible]. Told him he [illegible] not [illegible] to call here again, drunk or sober, unless [illegible] treat his [illegible] respectfully, and when he had any fault [illegible] to go to him. He swore some and cringed some. I wish there was a good faithful sober Teamster to send [illegible]. You left your hair brush, and a whole [illegible] of black flannel, which I fear you will need [illegible] your way. I will put the bill in this letter, as you may want it. Am glad your back is better. Hope you will get all your work done quick, so as to come back here. I got up stairs alone yesterday and day before. Elijah has gone to Frankfort today. Samuel is sawing up timber for our house - don't know as he will build next summer though.

Noon - [illegible] [illegible]. James is about [illegible]. [illegible] - write [illegible] all of [illegible], and come back [illegible] Brother. The [illegible] of my new dress was so short, I pieced it [illegible] - dress [illegible] shows a bit.

My head aches this forenoon. don't know what ails it - [illegible] a strange way, & have to nurse it - write [illegible]. [illegible]

when you went away, [illegible] him by refusing, [illegible] has been [illegible] subject! [illegible] may be [illegible] me the [illegible] there was nothing in it, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]!! [illegible] enclosed the [illegible] as you see.

Bangor Oct. 20 - 1851.

Dear Mother

It is evening. Samuel has stepped out to see Mr. Abbott fix his posts in the wood-shed, [illegible] has gone to hear Prof. Pond lecture before the Gorham Society upon ghosts; Frances is on the old track - "may I have a sheet of paper" - writing to her Mother up stairs. A nice fire is burning, and all things are very comfortable.

Samuel has been recording his Mother's death in the large Bible, which reminded me that the date of Willie's death is not recorded - will you please write when he died. A letter from [illegible] today, Mrs. Crosby and Rufus called. None of Mr. Pagen folks in today! Mrs. Brown, the Mother of the young man who was robbed of his California [illegible] at Boston, died last week - has not been well since the death of her son. I want to hear how [illegible] got home.

I have been wearing for two days, a Spine supporter which a lady Agent for [illegible] " " left here for one to try. I like the feeling of it much - it is a perfect support to the back & bowels, with shoulder braces connected - keeps the spine perfectly erect, and feels beautifully, but according to Dr. [illegible] theory of pressure & warmth upon the spine being injurious, it must

[illegible] eat.

Hampden

eventually injure the spine. I sent it back to [illegible] thinking it not best to pay ten dollars upon un-certainties. The lady said that she was so much troubled with kidney & spine complaints & prolapsus, that for eight months she had not walked at all, and Physicians told her she could live but a short time. She procured one of the supporters (invented by a lady of N. Y.) and in six weeks she walked a mile to meeting. Samuel said if she would warrant it to have as good an effect upon me, he would pay her $25: and Eliah said he would add another twenty five

I am wonderfully smart now adays - have been up stairs most every day lately - walked round the house to the pig pen, out through the lower gate into the street and up the steps into the house today, with Eliah's help. I am really getting along finely. The Mother's Magazine has come. I will send to Ellen when I have an opportunity. I may get only this no. though!

2 - Yesterday I rode ten or twelve miles - only stopping at Mrs. Crosby's half an hour or so. Back aches some today, but soon over it I have [illegible]. Eliah and I rode down to [illegible] corner, today, & in the afternoon yesterday, he, like a good boy, has been reading aloud Upham's Mental Philosophy, - and occasionally, by way of amusement, playing back-gammon. Mr. [illegible] is very anxious to sell his house & lot to Eliah, so that he can live near us! If I

[illegible] as it is perhaps it [illegible] best [illegible] new way.

Bangor
Oct. 20. 1851

am as well next sabbath as for a few days past, I think of going to meeting. Mary S. Joseph Hill came on here this morning. What a black, rough looking fellow he is — he has more heart than any other in the family I judge. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the day after you went away, I think, and is a bright & beautiful [illegible] yet.

You did'nt write a word about the babe - whether he was [illegible], or good, or afraid of you - nor what Charlie said, nor what Almeda was doing with herself & the children, nor when Charles & Albina are coming down, nor forty more things that I want to hear about. At Hampden Academy there are two tall posts with ropes for a swing, and an old chaise top for a seat - looks queer enough. I put a new elbow in a coat for Eliab one day - looks just as nice - the first time I ever did such a thing. John Furber fell from a wagon the other day, put his elbow out of joint and fractured the bone - better. Father says Alfred likes well.

23 - Samuel brought me your good letter last night, for which I greatly thank you. Samuel said he [illegible] you a five dollar bill, and then, for your greater convenience, changed it for smaller bills. It was changed on the paper with the three dollars & a half, - you will see, $8.50. I believe it is all right. About rugs, don't trouble yourself one bit about mine. I have concluded to make a rag carpet. That is, whenever I have any rags of any description except fulled cloth, while

cotton, calico, delaine, flannel, or what not, I intend to [illegible] them up into [illegible] and [illegible] them [illegible]. It is [illegible] to dispose of them, and after a series of years, I may, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the trouble, get enough for a [illegible] or kitchen [illegible] carpet. If any thing [illegible] of any [illegible] [illegible] body [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible] or anything else, [illegible] [illegible] for me. I don't like fulled cloth in a carpet — it is [illegible] to sew, and people say it does not [illegible] so well, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] cotton rags are not [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], and [illegible] [illegible] in every thing of every description, "hit or miss," [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] between my wide stripes of hit or miss, I [illegible] [illegible] by way of variety. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] wearing [illegible] will help [illegible]. I am [illegible] [illegible] you [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] did not [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] you [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]? I think you [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], and let me keep the [illegible] this winter if [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. We use a good deal of butter now, more than when we have plenty of milk, you know. Weigh out a certain [illegible] [illegible] & send by first opportunity. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] — tell how much there is, and the price.

As to your coming here [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to spend the winter here, if you would [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] for any thing at [illegible], I think it is entirely out of the question. It is not worth while to break up unless there is a necessity for it. If I continue to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], I think you [illegible] [illegible] can get along very comfortably by [illegible] [illegible] washing, and you know you can bring & do any kind of work here if you wish. I want you should do [illegible] as [illegible] [illegible]. If you think you had [illegible] stay there, try to [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible] — We [illegible] [illegible] like it so much better not to have any body but our [illegible]. I mean to be able to do the washing and [illegible] work myself before winter is out! I am so [illegible]. Elijah has [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] nor said anything about getting [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. I [illegible] when he "popped the question," as you know I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible],

Bangor

Oct. 26, 1851

Bangor Oct. 26. 1851

Dear Mother

I did not [illegible] go to meeting half the day, but it was pleasant weather, so I staid at home, which is by no means a new thing. Mr. [illegible] from [illegible] preached today. Mr. [illegible] found a dollar bill, going to church this morning. We all told him when he found money sabbath day he must give it for the good of the society where he went! Our people are trying to "get up steam" ~~and~~ to build a meeting house next year, but they are poor, and cannot without a good deal of help. Samuel says he will give $100 towards it.

I have been reading some very good-excellent pieces in the two last No's of the Independent – 150 & 151 – "The Lights of the Christian Life," from Rev. Ray Palmer's "[illegible]". I must send them to you by the first opportunity. Samuel thinks some of going to Ohio in a week or two, to collect money of Owen, – he says, but he wants to see the old place. I should think he would want to go before snow comes. How I should want to go with him if he does. I suppose we ought to make our arrangements for winter soon, as Susan says she wants to go down by the middle or last of next month. If you conclude to come down when she goes home, how can I go to Ohio and not find you there? How odd it would seem! I want to go very much, and see all the folks – If they will

& promise to come down as before, I'll give up going this
winter. Perhaps it would be quite as well for me to keep
still where I am, as to be jaunted about. I want to see the
[illegible] and the children. Charles & Albion & the babies of
course will come & make us a visit by & by, and I can-
not see any possible reason why Edmund can't come and
bring you down, and see us, or she and James come down.

Samuel took me part of your gloves - the rest were sold by
the lump for 25 a pair at Hatch & Thompson's, payable in
goods - Samuel has taken a due bill for that amount, and
credited you with the same, (three dollars) A letter from [illegible]
last night - You probably get letters from him as often as we do.
he is to have $[illegible] per day for a short time - he wants us
all to advise with regard to his staying there.

Elijah has said every thing necessary & I am
"engaged with company" - [illegible] Charlie &c -
about coming here & let us know. In haste

[illegible],

Bangor
Nov. 6. 1851

Bangor Nov. 6 1851.

Dear Brother

There is the most distant imaginable prospect that Samuel will go to Milo tomorrow, so I will write a little and have it ready to send. He wants to see Mr. Owen, and unless he gets a letter from him today, may go. Eliab had a letter from Ann yesterday - No news except that Argyle P. Rumsey took Bliss (the name of his wife) to himself very unexpectedly to all his friends a few days since. She gives Eliab lots of good advice about "Susan" - &c. &c. I have had a "pull back" for a few days - feel better today. I cannot imagine the cause, but my back gave out all at once. It was as much as I could well do to get across the room.

Frances says she wants to go home before Thanksgiving, which you know, is the 27 - of this month. So please to hasten your decisions that I may not be left without any help. Eliab thinks that unless he makes a trade with Brown to go back there, he shall go west very soon. Then, if expedient, we can turn "Tib" away, so as to have a small family - I suppose he will be more [illegible] to let us have the house, and at reasonable rent, if he can stay here - it will be very convenient to live so near while "our house" is building. Please to write soon your conclusions upon all these matters. Is Al. [illegible] going to send us a good lot of butter? I do so much

Good bye Mother & all the rest, shall write you a long letter as soon as I can find a place at which to date it.

want to arrange matters so that I can go to Milo to Thanksgiving, but I fear it will not be expedient. I don't know but I must give up my visit to Milo till another year. I had a good visit from Mary Tower. She is a noble girl. How much I have said and thought about that ironing board, and not one word regarding its fate have I yet learned.

I hope Almeda will take an early opportunity to get hold of Frances after she goes home and talk with her just right. I think she is serious and inquiring, but is very ignorant. She seems very much interested in the Sabbath school - says she hates to leave it. She says she never was taught any thing on religious subjects, and never had any chance to learn till this summer - says she thinks Universalist parents do very wrong to bring their children up without teaching them anything about religion. Where she worked last summer they never said a word to her about attending meeting or S. School - didn't care whether she went or not - She says she is very glad she came here to live and glad she went to S. School - never was in a family where the people were pious before &c. &c. She is a good hearted girl - good feelings and intentions, very - Mother and I came to that conclusion a great many times last summer! "Well after all Mr. Keene's folks are real clever people!" It is most dark - good night.

Sat. night - Have just rec'd your letter - Saml

is going down street tonight, so I'll finish this and send along. Samuel has decided to give two hundred dollars for the meeting house. As Elish says, it is a "rub and a go" with all of them. Elish has decided to go away somewhere Monday - so soon - He hardly knows where he is going I believe - perhaps to Cleveland - We have tried to persuade him to loaf this winter, but he thinks he cannot. He says now I w[illegible] perhaps he may not go - I don't believe he will [illegible] says if he goes away, he shall not do anything for the Church. Samuel is sawing out lumber at a great rate for h[illegible] house. Mr. Tibbetts says if they will sell the pews [illegible] will put in a hundred dollars, but if they [illegible]uild a free house, not a cent. I am greatly obliged to Charles for his good _turkey_ intentions - and shall depend on his _visit_ this winter the sooner the better. Frances wants to go home before thanksgiving, so you can come as soon as you get ready and have a mind to. Isaac's last letter said he was _very_ well & hearty. I am better for two or three days - getting smart again. I _do wish_ I could go to [illegible] 27 - but suppose it is not worth while I hope you will _all_, Almeda and all the rest, come to see us if I don't. Should think the cheapest & easiest hoods Almeda could make would be knit hoods of comforters. Well very soon I shall be gladdened by the sight of my _Mother's_ face. I have got a bundle

of Independents, Mother's Magazines &c. to send when there is a chance. good bye - love to all - write when you will come - In great haste - Lucy. seems as if there is something more I want to say - but can't think.

Bangor
Nov. 16. 1851

Nov. 16 - 1851.

Dear Mother

It is Monday morning just after breakfast, and just light enough for me to see to write. Frances is bustling about, sweeping, making beds &c preparatory to going to washing. Samuel has gone to surveying - Mr. Tebbets is over at work on the "Pendleton's" house.

Three good surveyors are "out of the market" - one gone to selling rum - the only licensed rum seller in Bangor - one moved to Boston, and one sick, so there is a great demand for surveyors, now just as the river is shutting up. and everybody is in a hurry to get their lumber surveyed and the vessels sent off. Lives people are after Samuel. The Surveyor General is very anxious for Samuel to take hold and help this fall, but won't give him a commission for another year. I tell him I would'nt do a thing now in the coldest most uncomfortable part of the whole season, unless he would let me survey next year. Samuel says he could probably make six or seven dollars a day till the river freezes. So he surveys some, and stays at the mill some.

Well I am looking to see Mother, Jane and Charlie this week - What a time! Don't disappoint me now, will you? I'm also expecting a letter from Eliab. In regard to Butter - I suppose you may send us as much as you want to more or less! Samuel says we shall want fifty pounds if you want to spare it. I don't know - I suppose

we had better get somewhere enough to last through the winter and Spring, as it is always higher in the Spring, you know. I suppose, too, that you all of course want to save yours to get the highest price. Perhaps I told you wrong about the price - it has been a shilling until lately, and Samuel got some very good firkin butter for, 15 - but it is now eighteen. You can let us have just what amount you please, only let us know soon whether we can depend on a supply there, so as if not to find it elsewhere.

I want one No. of the American Messenger delivered to Frances this winter. I will pay for it. She says it has done her a great deal of good being here, and attending S. School this summer - after she goes home, she will have very little good reading probably, and very little good influence. I think it would be a good plan for the children to send the Youth's Dayspring, Wellspring and any other good reading, after they have done with it, over into that neighborhood. Frances says they have nothing of the kind there. She says "they seem to be all good people over your way, and all bad ones our way." She says they are all ignorant, Universalists & Sabbath-breakers. She says she thinks her Grandmother is a Christian, but she has lived so long among Universalists that she sometimes thinks she is one too, though she and her daughter (Mrs. Gould) have a great many talks about it. She says her Grandmother cannot walk to meeting & they have no way to ride and if they had, she is so fleshy it is very difficult for her to

get into a waggon - and that good people never call to see her. Mr. Partridge called about ten minutes, Mr Temple not at all - She wishes they would call and see her. What should hinder Almede from getting acquainted with Frances (not make too much of her) and then she and Mrs Sargent or somebody Club together and go to see Mrs. Davis. It might comfort her up, edify her and do her great good. If there is a bible class sustained, as there ought to be, this winter in Milo, I want Frances should be invited into it and instructed. She says she wishes she had been brought up differently - She never knew how interesting the Bible was till this summer - she never cared anything about reading it before, &c. I presume her Mother will use her influence, be it much or little, to make a Universalist of her, and if there be not some counteracting influence, she may lose what little of good impressions she has gained this summer. You had better not mention the state of things much, as our remarks may come to ears who will accuse us of merely desiring to proselyte.

What a great time every body is making about Kossuth - I am afraid they will spoil him. I never thought to say a word to Nathan Sargent about paying him for bringing the butter - Had he been paid? If you bring Charlie, then Charles and Albina will be sure to come soon. I want to see the baby. I want to see Almede & the Children too - Seems as if I can't think of not going to Milo this winter, & yet I suppose I had better not - Tell my niece & nephew Lucy and James, that I have laid it up against them

That they do [illegible] write to me... [illegible] it will be not only for my gratification, but for their own good.

Mond. eve. Frances says she wants very much to go home next monday - a week from today, as she will then have but a week to get ready for school. So we shall confidently expect you all three next Saturday or before. Bring Charlie.

Affectionately [illegible]

BANGOR ME. NOV 13 3 PAID

Mrs. A. M. Metcalf,
Milo,
Maine.

Bangor
April 13 1852

Bangor Apr. 13. 1852.

Lucy and all the rest of us have been wondering why some of you don't write. I tell Lucy she need not expect more than two letters from her Mother at the outside, this summer, and those will not probably come till the last of the summer! That is the way she does when Lucy is not here. Thanks to her, and you too, Albina, for the letters sent by Lucy. Your purchases shall be attended to at my earliest convenience. Please specify how much calico you want, and I will get the rest in cash. I am glad your bonnet suits so well. Perhaps Stephen told you how Samuel lost the Messengers. He went to Dwren's to try and replace them, but could not. So you will all have to go without the March Numbers. We are very sorry. The April numbers are here, ready, waiting for an opportunity to send them. If you would just ask Mr. Smith to call when he is down, it would be both a pleasure to us to see him, and a convenience to send by him. Lucy seems to get along well and like her school. Mr. Littlefield was not ejected, so she goes to Miss Call. Jane was more than qualified for the Grammar School in every thing else, but could not get along with ciphering

[illegible]
term. Samuel got home last week — is going again the first of May. Letter from Eliah yesterday — his health improving — home soon — I am tired and shall leave this for Mother to finish — I am much better than when I wrote last — Office — Lucy

I do want to come home I want to see the little ones I want to know whether they are good children I wonder if they want to see Grandmother as much as she wants to see them How does your farming business come on How many pigs calves & lambs have you got — have you got a good Wood pile — Grain all sold that you are going to sell — any fensing done — did the mice injure your young Apple Trees — I wish you could get a few quince Stocks and raise pears — I certainly would get a few of the Mc Laughlin Plum Trees — How much value they do get from a small peace of land it certainly must be easier than to plow & hoe over whole acres to get one tenth of the amount — a Mr. Holman who lives in Hampden One man sold last Summer $50 worth of Thimbleberries (we had one box of them) all raised on a piece of Ground but little if any bigger than your house stands upon — How it does seem to me that there are some kinds of fruit that you could cultivate to more profit & with less expense of Team & Manual labor than trying to raise so much grain — And how much pleasanter — & more congenial to your [illegible] & feeling to spend your time on one acre than spread your strength over 50 acres so thin that you can hardly see the effect of what you have done

Bangor
May 20. 1852

Bangor May 20 1852

Twenty seven years old am I this day. Really getting pretty well along in years. [illegible] we all grow old [illegible] few more years will all be [illegible]. Yesterday [illegible] and I went up to Mount Hope and [illegible] [illegible] by our little one's grave [illegible] weeping willow. It is a beautiful place there. Improvements [illegible].

With regard to Mother's going home, she must [illegible] say something. Of course it would be greatly for our happiness to have her stay here always, but I do not want to be selfish about it. I cannot feel willing that she should stay and continue to do the work here. It has been as much as she ought to do all winter, and in the warm weather it will of course be more fatiguing. We are now taking immediate measures to get a girl. I am on the track of a good one here, but may not get her. I wish you would ascertain where Frances is, and whether she would come if wanted, and if you hear of any other good girl please inform me. I am going to get a girl just as soon as I can. Then Mother will be at liberty so far as I am concerned, to make you good folks a visit & come back again, or to stay there, just as she can best enjoy herself. I perceive her heart yearns to be with the grandchildren but as there is one of them here, I tell her she ought to stay here some. She, of course, must decide according to her own inclination. She don't seem to know whether she wants to be here or there when [illegible] and Isaac come

for myself, I want to be in both places. Don't know how I shall divide on that "'portant 'casion."! Really, I shall want to go to Milo very much, but hardly suppose it will be best. We are somewhat expecting Isaac every day, but he may wait and come with Ann.

I wish you would make inquiry about Frances as soon as convenient, and write me the result as soon as convenient thereafter. just find out whether she can come, and I will write if I want her as soon as I find out about this girl, which will be very soon. If you know of any others that you think would answer, perhaps get the refusal of them for a few days! You know I need a pretty steady one, as I cannot be with her much, and having too many young ones together, I should be as well off then with none. We are very anxious to hear all about your conclusions - whether any of you are coming soon, so as to carry Mother home. You and Lissie ought to come, Almeda. Lissie really ought to come - all the way here been. Mother says perhaps you had rather wait till fall, when we get moved into the new house - but I don't like this putting off. Is Nelly going to let you come, any or all of you. Where is your promised visit with both the children Albina, in June? will it be forthcoming? Please all write soon, and tell the conclusions - how James got home &c. &c. I fear he was pretty lame for a few days. I hear that Louisa Kittredge is indulging hope. Write soon - good bye - Lucy

Poor Lucy A. is sadly tried about compositions -

Bangor May 17th 18[illegible]

My Dear Children

I want you to write to me immediately & tell me what to do about coming home or rather what you — any of you are going to do about coming down — I suppose Albina wants to come down — And it would be nice if she & Lissie could come & make their visit & carry me home i.e. if it is best for me to go home at all before next fall — But then I suppose you want to use the horse every day this long time — & perhaps too A. had rather come after they have got mov'd into the new house — I do want to be at home — And I want to be here with Lucy & Eliab if I could do them any good they are two poor lame backed creatures — I very much doubt whether Eliab has as much prospect of ever being well as Lucy has & she dont certainly get along very fast — 2 or 3 days during the winter she sat up all day & 3 times she has made her bed — it was before the visit to Milo — I get along quite comfortably with the work — But still I suppose it would be better for them to have a good smart hired girl if they can get one — I really cannot make up my mind whether I ought to stay or not do tell me all of you what you think about it.

Dear Albina, will you please to do your best endeavor to get these Tomato seeds planted in a good sunny place & I will try to keep the weeds from them when I come home
I'm some afraid they'll get lost out of the letter,

Charles my dear son I want to impress upon your mind the idea that if you would bathe in cold water wash in cold water sit in cold water &c. it would help you as much as to have a hired man, you would feel so much smarter so lively & strong (but by the way I scold him for thinking so much of water) He comes home from his work, so tired & his back so weak he can hardly sit up — then he'll go into his chamber & sit in a tub of cold water, then rub & wash himself till he is all in a perspiration — and go off to his work in the afternoon feeling quite well as he says — but I wish he'd use cold water a little less & that you would use it a great deal more e. g. wash all over once a day in water not very cold & rub and dry yourself thoroughly you would lose no time by it for you would feel so much better that you would more than gain it — you can hardly realize how much more cheerily and constantly the men folks work now than at Milo — It seems to me that our 3 men folks are not idle an hour in a week but it all in other they frequently won't get home to supper till late [illegible]

To Almira my daughter [illegible] had a while ago I was at first up a [illegible] to [illegible] you come here & stay 2 or 3 weeks [illegible] (Charles) while [illegible] home & then 1st of July vacation will commence & Lucy & Jane [illegible] by [illegible] they are old enough & it seems as if they might. But [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] & you would [illegible] fixing up to [illegible] [illegible] up & Lucy is going to [illegible] if [illegible] out [illegible] small [illegible] perhaps [illegible] help some in the vacation I think I could get along with [illegible] the [illegible] care is [illegible] we have breakfast [illegible] at past five [illegible] [illegible] at the end [illegible]

Bangor
June 21. 1852

Bangor June 21 - 1852.

Dear Brother & Sister

Mother did think of going home today, but has concluded to wait till Wednesday, so I will write a few words, though I have not much to say. I don't know how we shall all prosper when Mother is gone but presume we can manage to get enough of something every day to eat, and perhaps get our beds made! I am very doubtful, Charles, whether Charlie will on the whole be benefited by attending school this summer. I do not think children should be sent to school till they are six years old. At home, frolicking about, they are laying in a stock of physical strength and stamina which will give them greater power and strength of intellect by and by, which they will need when they come to the labor of study. I don't believe it is good for their little bodies to be kept so still six hours in a day. How does Lizzie prosper, I suppose all her Motherlyness is put in requisition to take care of Charlie now-a-days. Lucy's school is one week longer - if I get a girl I suppose she will be homeward bound shortly. We do not think that on the whole this Call & school is the most improving that might be - besides, if Mr. Littlefield is ever displaced she had better come

and go there one term — that is just the school for her. So please to write often. I want exceedingly to go to [illegible] by & by, but don't know as I can.

Bangor
June 24 1852

Bangor June 24 - 1852 -

Dear Mother

You have been gone about a day, so I suppose it is time for me to commence a letter to you. You know when anybody goes away from anywhere, there is always something (sometimes a series of things) happens more wonderful than usual that makes anybody wish anybody had staid a day longer. Well, we passed a quiet day yesterday, after our usual fashion - about tea time who should appear to us but Rev. Mr Partridge, his wife and baby, to stay one night; They had been to tea - We received them graciously, Lucy and Jane trimmed round like women - prepared the "go to meetin' chamber", got things ready for breakfast &c. We had baked veal for dinner yesterday, and some slices cold for breakfast with warm potatoes, bread & butter, & doughnuts, all ready by 1/2 past six this morning. They went out in the Boston at 11 this A.M. Samuel gave him a $5.00 as a parting present! I guess they feel poor.

P.M. Well, yesterday afternoon Lucy ironed all but the starched clothes - those I have done this forenoon so our ironing for this week is done. Lucy went to school this morning, but soon returned - no school today - perhaps not tomorrow - Miss Cill's cousin

If you would only write [illegible] is all to you!

home since? last night - he was sun struck in N.Y., has been here for a few days, partially deranged. Letters from Almeda and Isaac last night - the latter I send - I feel very anxious about him and shall till we hear again. A letter also from Antoinette, to Isaac's ad. dress, rec'd last night.

About girls, I fear Almeda has put herself to unnecessary inconvenience & trouble about it - really my damsels get along so nicely that I don't think I shall trouble myself any further at present: provided Almede will let Lucy stay. I was very tired last night - Lucy wondered what Grandmother would do if she should see my face - but I feel quite nicely today, even after ironing shirts. I have laid down a good long time, and am going to again - we don't have company every day you know. They are raising the house this P.M. Put the sills on yesterday. I expect it will go ahead now.

Besides all the other wonders that I have written about, there has appeared a detailed account of the rat hunt of night before last, which I will transcribe for your edification. I have fixed Lucy's green dress so it looks sweetly - made it low in the neck with a row of small white buttons to button up the back - and cut the sleeves right off short! Ou

examination, I perceived that the sleeves were almost gone, and thought the easiest way would be to piece up a new pair from the flounce & button right up under - they look darling pretty. I can't tell yet, but I think that after school is done, we can get along nicely - I think at any rate, we had better try it a while. It will be good for Lucy - she feels the care of it, and is so anxious to see to everything & save my bones! Well, I will leave a little room for her to write - Do write often - I want to hear how you got home, how glad they all were to see you and everything. In haste, Lucy

Dear Mother

I begun a letter to send by Grandmother but did not have time to finish it I do not know but we shall have company in to see our school tomorrow and I dread it for I shall have to read one of my compositions myself Miss Call has chosen "Old Hero" my last one for me to read I don't know how I can do it Miss Call was intending to have them come tomorrow but I do not know but the death of her cousin will prevent it I was very glad to see Mr Partridge and wife once more before they went away I think their baby is very smartt for one of that age Miss Hilbert a girl from Teke who attends the same school that I did came up here with me to see them and they were gone I was real sorry for she wanted very much to see them Ann Page has just come in and I cannot think very well so I will wait till she has gone Ann Page has gone and I cant think of any thing to write and my hand trembles so I cant write I do not what I shall do about learning to write if I cannot keep my hand

teadier I told Lizzie I would write to her next time I wrote so I shall
not call this a letter; perhaps I shall put one into the stand drawer
when that is sent up Aunt Lucy wants to know how they liked
the crockery and clock, [illegible] [illegible] often I shall have more time to write when
[illegible] [illegible] is done good bye
Your affectionate daughter Lucy A Searles

Mrs. A. M. Searles
Bri[illegible]
Maine

Bangor
June 27, 18[illegible]

[illegible]gor, June 27 18[illegible]

Dear Brother [illegible]

I do [illegible] approve of writing let[illegible]
this Sabbath day, and seldom do it, but as we
rec'd another letter from [illegible] last night, and
I know you will be anxious to see, I will write
a little to send with it [illegible] mail.

Edith said we ought not to have sent
his other letter till we heard again, but you
charged me so particularly to forward as soon
as we received his letters, that I thought I must.

Your letter was rec'd last night. In regard
to the principal matter therein contained, I am
really [illegible] and unable to [illegible].
We have not had time yet to think of it. [illegible]
probably knows the most about the individual.
"If the thing should happen," as you say, I don't know
what we should all do. It would ~~not~~ hardly be [illegible]
for one of us [illegible]. If so, [illegible]
it is for herself to decide, in view of her own hap-
piness & good, and that of her children. You were
real good to write so soon. I thank you. So please
continue to write very often. [illegible]
so far. The [illegible] after you [illegible], [illegible]
come in to comfort [illegible]

[illegible] a week [illegible]

and we thought [illegible] greatly best and would
to come in the [illegible] was not well enough.
They had [illegible] "melting time" at [illegible]
([illegible] school yester[illegible] the last day) I conclude.
Poor Lucy could hard[illegible] keep from tears all the
afternoon - I thought she would feel better to be
[illegible], so we went to [illegible] - It is not
strange that she feels bad - she has become very
much attached to two or three of the girls - You
know she never was acquainted with any girls that
she really liked - kindred spirits - before, and now
to lose them again so soon seems hard. She will
write to her Mother soon all about it - she will have
more time now. I am going to give her fifty cents
a week - is that right? Perhaps she'll buy [illegible]
thing! I really think that a [illegible] of some kind
will do her more good than another term at school
now. Perhaps Lucy will take one or two [illegible]
and to her studies next winter. Yesterday [illegible]
Lucy prepared beans, brown bread [illegible], while
I made five pies, and a batch of doughnuts -
I sat by the table and did the whole - then moved
my chair to the stove & fried them. I [illegible] in
the course of the day made [illegible] my own bed.
You recollect Mrs. Stowe says of "[illegible]"
that when talking of the troubles her slaves gave
her, she is [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible]

"ported" — "[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]" When there is [illegible] [illegible] to do, [illegible]! [illegible] you yesterday I cut [illegible].

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] you can't think [illegible] you were here — it seems so lively and refreshing to hear [illegible] pounding, whistling, singing, shouting "heave ho", "give beam", "there she goes" "once more" &c. Mr. [illegible] [illegible] have one idle moment. He says, "come boys" and not "go boys" — always speaks pleasantly, except when a [illegible] [illegible] tries his patience too hard, but in good earnest, and they all seem to know what he means. There were eleven men at work there yesterday — masons, carpenters & lathers. — If James were here now he could earn from [illegible] to fifty cents per day lathing, for a few days. I think Charles' prospects [illegible] flattering with his [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]! Mrs. [illegible] [illegible] called here yesterday to get some [illegible] of "[illegible]" things — after she went away, Mr. [illegible] [illegible] his heart [illegible] about the family. He has been treated shamefully [illegible] & cruelly — he has had some [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] since his wife died, besides his [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] he never mentioned the subject to any person before — I ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] my [illegible] — good bye — love to all.

[illegible] [illegible]

Mrs. A. M. Metcalf

Nice

France

Sabbath. July 4. Louis rec'd last night - greatly oblig'd.
Sorry for your "Skater factory" and all your other troubles!
In regard to the urgent and important matter before
treated of, we know nothing at all. Neither Samuel,
Elijah nor I know the man by sight, but have heard of
the Riders in general as fine people - doubtless Isaac
knows more of the character &c. of the man than any of
the rest of us - if the case is so urgent that it will not do
to wait for his opinion, I should advise to make a
confidant of Mr. Sewall. He would, of course, know
all about him. But why is the case so urgent - what
is the hurry? I should want a long time to consider
such a matter. You were not sufficiently explicit.
How and when did the gentleman make known his

Bangor
July 4. 1852

wishes? What does Charles know about him? How old is he? How does he look? Above all, what does Almeda think of him? Of course he is a pious man, or it would not be thought of. It is Almeda's business to ask him all these questions, and as many more as she sees fit, and then go to Mr Sewall & see if he tell a straight story - Why in the world you come to me for advice I don't know - we don't know half so much as you to begin with, and have no opportunity to find out more, whereas you can easily do it. It is for Almeda to decide. ~~She knows that by all of us she is loved so~~ Guess I'll write a word or two to Almeda - About rags, no special hurry any time when convenient. I have tried to get Eliab to write to you - Will try to find your things to send by Gould -

Bangor
July 2 52

Bangor July 2 1852.

Dear Mother

I very much wanted a letter from you last night but did not get it, so to console myself for the disappointment I will commence writing one to you.

We get along finely [illegible] - have got a [illegible] in the [illegible] [illegible] a [illegible] (O that we had [illegible] you went away) - have had breakfast in good season every morning but one - the girls sleep in the "new room", and the "go to meetin'" chamber is all prepared for the reception of Aunt [illegible]. Our washing and ironing was done up in good shape by Wednes. noon - Yesterday we baked wheat bread, apple & [illegible] pies & fried cakes. I have made Jane's dress - it looks "very decent." Am now making another pair of [illegible] pants for [illegible] - the "hard times" [illegible] [illegible] I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and I'm going to send them to Charles - he may allow what he thinks they are worth. I expect they will wear well - I am getting

[illegible] (Mrs. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

the damsels read "Uncle Tom's Cabin" - for a sort of stimulus, you know - an hour every afternoon. Mr. Smith, the Librarian, was so accommodating as to bring it up here - both volumes - one day when he had business as far as the Rail Road Bridge. I thought he was very kind.

The house progresses rapidly - Mr. Tebbets has to wait some for Mr. Wiggin's slow motions. It is all partitioned off inside and lathed ready to plaster between the studs. The chimneys are all done but topping out one - Oven, ash hole, flat iron heater, boiler. I think it will be nice & convenient - The boiler is not set though - Samuel had to get one made - I have not been up there yet - Samuel has been unusually busy this week - and that is saying a good deal you know - has had more orders than he could saw - running by night too - and has been obliged to get some sawed at the mill below. The first of next week if nothing happens, when he is more at leisure, I think of taking a journey up to the house - Mr. Tebbets

proposed to escort me up on a long [illegible] the other night, but I declined. They say there is a splendid prospect from the [illegible] windows - Can see [illegible] far! We had a beef soup for dinner to day - it was rather weak though. We are expecting some one [illegible] day, but she may not come - Isaac I presume will leave her at [illegible] and go in another direction before coming to Bangor. A letter for you from Aunt Conant last night, but as there is no special news, I will not enclose it in this, as it is a big square one - Who did [illegible] Gould call for these things? Please [illegible] him he sent the salt, but thought these articles had gone - please direct him to call - We got your likeness a day or two since - it is much better than the others - but it is [illegible] [illegible] face now - Samuel has written about the carriage - he will let you know as soon as he receives an answer. Dont be worrying and expecting the folks too soon - they will of course want to stop here a week [illegible] to rest before they proceed to [illegible]. Samuel [illegible] busier than ever lately - I begin [illegible]

feel more in doubt whether I can go to [illegible] at all -

[illegible] P. M. We have baked wheat bread, pies, "New Year's Cake" and fried some nice dough-nuts to day - I am getting ready for Anna you see. made a lot of cake. the whole receipt seven pounds of flour - It is real good - I like the blue cook book more and more. We did not bake in the brick oven. Brown bread and beans seemed to go hard last week, even with Mr. Tebbets - thought we would have a week's respite. O, we baked a pudding for dinner too. Samuel saw the nose and toes of a rat poking through the crack in the back room yesterday, so he loaded his pistol and fired - we could discover no dead rat. [illegible] think there must be one somewhere, Mr. Wiggin continues very sick - cannot [illegible] live long. Why don't you all write. You ought to consider how like a funeral it seemed here after you went away, and write [illegible] tell [illegible] what you're all doing every day as I do. Mr. Tebbets don't know which way to turn - he [illegible] [illegible] me I [illegible] to do much [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], he says "[illegible] [illegible] you [illegible]

He is having a get "[illegible]" up there for the folks to read. What was the dollar for in your last letter. Yo. said not a word about it.

Bangor
July 21 . 1852

Bangor July [illegible] 18[illegible]

Dear [illegible] and all

It is [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] washing all [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] shirts and [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] glad [illegible]

[illegible] did not come yesterday [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] said it was [illegible]

[illegible] to get [illegible] meal. Mr. T.

[illegible]

brought raspberries two or three times. They seemed pretty glad to see us back. It would be a good thing for Susie to be left in charge of affairs a month. She would learn faster so than any other way. They are two good girls. I could not help worrying about you mother for fear you would not take care of yourself - you got too much fatigued every day I was at home. Do be careful this warm weather. The raspberries came very nicely, but we missed the cream! Almeda's sugar I will send with the things, if it is procured in season. The parasol is mended - cost 25. I sent the pattern of patch, but there were not enough like it, so I will wait till I go down street. I have not done anything on the girls dresses yet - expect Miss Baynes tomorrow to help me.

Among the clothes washed last week was a baby's nightgown, small, neatly made, - where could it come from? Nettie, is it yours? It is a great mystery to me. No one knows or can guess any thing about it. Samuel has gone to [illegible]

to-day. He is not well at all, the warm weather affects him very much. Emma, I put in your pocket-knife - you will find it among the things she mentions. The floors of the house are plastered and painted, the front door built and the piazza made since we came home - also the white front paint put on once more. The windows are in, and the stairs built. It is astonishing to see how things have grown in the garden within a week. We can have green peas to-morrow.

Mrs. Wiggin is very ill - they came and Dr. [illegible] [illegible] with her [illegible] morning for Boston, to get advice from physicians there. I don't know how they will get her there, is sick so long. Mrs. [illegible] made me a long visit yesterday, she says it is all over the neighborhood that [illegible] "Abbott" is paying attention to "Sister Judith"! Mrs. and [illegible] Haynes called yesterday.

Clark says he shall start next Thursday for Boston. You know he borrowed a shirt of Mr. Sabine when he went to visit. There were five nice Clean ones in his

trunk all the winter. I send the Thibet dress - you can combine it together what is best about it. It is too late - good night

Did you get anything for me, Anna, except Lucy's shoes & cambric for [illegible]? How much was my dress? I think I shall have it fitted soon. I have not had time to finish Isaac's shirts so I will send them as they are - Elisha will get his [illegible] [illegible] fitting [illegible].

Friday noon. I have been [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] - Mr. [illegible] will probably be along soon - I will fix Isaac's clothes in as well as I can - wish I knew whether he or [illegible] would [illegible] one of those clothes which were washed [illegible] up - I don't [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] is [illegible] - Elisha could not get 1/2 barrel of fish so got a barrel for $6.00. Lucy's dress is finished except sewing in the sleeves. Philip [illegible] is to [illegible] [illegible] this [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] could not [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] will [illegible] [illegible] this week - In haste [illegible] [illegible] all [illegible] [illegible]

Bangor

July 27. 1852

Bangor July 27 - 1852.

Dear Mother

Your name as the direction of a letter seems to comprehend all the brothers & sisters too at present - at any rate, I must make it do so this time.

I did intend to write a long letter this time and not hurry about it either; "but" yesterday we washed. This morning while the girls were doing the usual morning's work and a little additional cleaning &c., I made a custard pie for tea, some tart skeletons & a loaf of cup cake - to attend to the baking of the same, broil a steak for dinner and superintend the operations of my two handmaidens was a good forenoon's work. Then as soon as I had done dinner & laid me down to rest, Samuel came, quite unexpectedly, to give me a ride. That, of course, must be done, - so we went over to his mill, & rode down two miles below it

on the Brewer side - then back, did some little matters of shopping on Main St, patch & Calico for Almeda &- made two calls without getting out of the car. -raige - at Mr. Kittredge's & Bartlett's - and home at ½ past five - It is now six, I have rested a few minutes - Lucy is picking over raspberries which we have just brought, for tea, - Jane making a fire. One of them must carry this to the Office tonight. Elijah started in the six o'clock boat monday morning for the "Water cure". did not know how soon he should return. I don't dare to think of it, because it makes me feel bad that I cannot be at Milo with you all, ~~helping~~ you have good times. It was so warm & I had so much to do, that I did not enjoy your visit here so much as I would now, Isaac & Nellie, and I really think you ought to come so as to stay more than a "day or two" with me when you go back. When are you coming home - If soon I will not have

my pink dress made till you come - but if not I shall need it - I got both the girls dresses done Sat. night, but had to hurry for it. Miss Reynes fitted both, which saved a good deal of time. If I am as well then as now, I hope to go to meeting next Sabbath. Elisha bought some "kerchiffs for you Isaac. When shall I send Almeda's things? I fear the calico will not suit, and I could get no good pattern for less than [illegible] per yd.

I thank sister Nettie very much for her "few words", and shall be extremely happy to thank her again and again for similar favors - would answer it particularly had I time, but must defer it. Am glad it pleases her to have so many new brothers & sisters - there are quite a number of us - but we shall be glad to welcome about three more into the family. Nettie's "neckaree" or whatever Carrie calls it, does not suit me at all, but as it is, I send it - please

report faithfully on all topics of inter-
est, all of you - were you not fright-
ened when Isaac was sick? Samuel
is much better since he came home.
How soon will Almeda come down? they
wants to see her very much. I do so
want to be at Milo with you all. do write
~~what~~ you do every day. Lavinia told
me today that they some expect to move
away. Mr. Kittredge has just come
in! so I must stop - good bye. I love
all of you - In haste - Lucy -

Bangor

July 31 '52

Bangor July 31 1852.

Dear Mother

Your good letter, dated all the way from the 24th to the 29th inst. was duly received last thursday evening.

I do not feel very well about it, that among so many, no one could write a word but you, and so a sheet be sent half full. It seems almost hard to be away from you all now. Albina has a hard time about help does'nt she? Worse than I do — my patience is sorely tried some days, but on the whole we get along pretty well — some days I feel obliged to work rather harder than I ought to, but I always get over it again. I had a sad time this week with that old bag of hen's feathers up stairs — the rats had gnawed into it, and it was fuller of moths & millers than you can imagine — I have seen more about the house in all the rooms, than ever before this summer, & could not think where they came from — I destroyed all I could,

Anna and I wonder why don't you write? I [illegible] over so much [illegible] to you when I [illegible] far away [illegible] though there is nothing new here, and you all do some thing new every day. [illegible]

[illegible] Please [illegible] take [illegible] Consider [illegible] my [illegible] Amen

put the feathers, bag and all, in a tub of hot water - when they were wet through we took them out of the bag, Samuel dug a hole in the ground and buried them! I find moths in his buffalo coat and every where - is there anything I can do about it now? Mrs. Lee came Thursday - took stage for Bucksport next morning. I have finished my muslin dress trimmed it with double ruffles - the sleeves - don't think I shall ever do so foolish a thing again. was almost tired of it before it was made. If I feel pretty well tomorrow, intend to go to church half the day.

In regard to Almeda's arrangements, I don't understand - it seems to me it would be the extreme of nonsense for her to make a wedding, or any parade at all - why not as she goes to her new home - children and all - call at the parson's, and let that end it - as many of you as can go, ride over to Brownville with her. I suppose I may give my opinion - and it is that I should do no such thing as to get an expensive dress just for this occasion - I should prefer to have a

a common dress suitable to ride in - Were
I in Almeda's place, and needed another
dress, of whatever kind, I would have it;
but nice silk dresses are comparatively
little needed in the country, and withall
slightly unsuitable, as a general thing,
to crowd into a carriage with a family
and ride four miles to meeting. However
she knows better what she wants than I do. I
should think Anne's shawl would be just
what she needs. When is she coming down?
does she wish these things sent up before
she comes? Have you rec'd my last extreme-
ly pleasing letter yet? We have not heard a
word from Eliah yet. I some expect him
tonight - I sent the pillow to take care of
the parasol! Our house is entirely finished
and painted outside - woodshed, privy &c
&c. Mr. Wiggin will finish plastering
today probably - then Mr. Tebbets will go
to work on the inside. We are going to have
the walls of the kitchen painted all over.

William Crosby wishes to know when
Isaac is coming back, as he will come up
here and see him. Margaret does not

gain very fast. Mr. C. is very bad with the [illegible]. People are talking of trying to get a chime of bells for the new Unitarian church. I hope they will.

The story about Mr. T. and Judith is doubtless entirely without foundation.

Mrs. Lee says Lucy has grown fleshy very much. Thinks I do not hurt her at work. From what she said of Augusta V. Brown, I should think her very much like Jane — very smart, high spirited and disposed to be impudent. I think she is a trial to Mrs. Lee and Ellen too. I have not called at any neighbor's yet. Think I shall next week if nothing happens. I have just about as much as I can get along with every day to keep the mending all done and everything in order, without going out at all. Do, Mother, be careful of yourself — you keep tired all the time because you will always jump to wait upon everybody when anything is wanted.

Much love to all — and do write. Mother, Charles, Isaac, Nellie, Almeda, Anne, Albina, James — do write to us.

Lucy

Aug 10. P.S. I have [illegible] ... Please Anne tell me who [illegible] to have [illegible] a few [illegible] ... the pink dress fitted before you come. [illegible] ... to [illegible] when you come.

Bangor
Aug. 7. 52

Bangor Aug. 7. 1852.

[illegible]

A nice package of your [illegible] just received - [illegible] [illegible] they were [illegible] [illegible] the Office was closed. [illegible] the table is just cleared away. [illegible] [illegible] a few moments [illegible].

We get along [illegible] usually - [illegible] and then a hard day. [illegible] [illegible] He says that [illegible] more than a hired girl would do [illegible] is [illegible] fifty cents a week [illegible] the difference [illegible] [illegible] dollars.

I was [illegible] gratified with all the items of intelligence [illegible].

[illegible]

[illegible] thistles, though it be sure I
heard repeatedly that you and [illegible] to [illegible]
[illegible]! Thus much for [illegible]

By the way, [illegible] about "[illegible]" for your
"[illegible]", methinks you should be able to [illegible]
enough of that commodity to satisfy the pres-
ent emergency, in [illegible] and
away there for "time of need", without being
altogether dependent on [illegible]
you [illegible]? [illegible] for my
mistake about weddings. I did think it
strange that so many [illegible] people to-
gether should go off in such [illegible]. Nellie
and I will do our best about [illegible] you
with a dress. Already [illegible]
[illegible] about up street and [illegible] a
carriage and driver. [illegible]
to matter! [illegible]
ed that you do not come [illegible]. My [illegible]
is as good or better [illegible], and [illegible]
does not go to [illegible]
long without [illegible]
much easier [illegible]
house, [illegible]
small [illegible] about [illegible]

[illegible] like to tell [illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible] by [illegible]

[illegible] go into the woods next winter. I have not a great amount of work on hand - [illegible] hurrying - and if you can send something entirely prepared when Isaac comes. I can help you as well as not. How much I do want to be among you, to put a "finger in the pie." You must send specific directions in relation to all purchases. I should think a dark all wool delaine just the thing you need. I like that material for dresses very much. Dry [illegible] every kind are exceedingly [illegible] now. All purchases of that kind had better be made now than a few weeks later. I got some crash a few days since for 14 quite as good as [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ges - really handsome - silk and wool for [illegible] and 16c - delaines for ten cents &c. &c. Silks are said to be cheaper than ever known before. A good time for me to get one, if I only went out often enough to make it worth while. I think some of having my silk made over - simply cut out under the [illegible] and a yoke put in to bring it [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[Left margin, written vertically:] [illegible] I would [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] like to talk to you. Has Charles any help besides Sturtevant [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] to write [illegible] [illegible] think of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of it, except [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] you all about [illegible] [illegible] - [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] sent by [illegible] [illegible] Child to Anna. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] it is [illegible] [illegible] it. About what time [illegible] coming [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]! I see by the paper that [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] have lost their only child. How many have they buried besides the twins? I contemplate attending Church again tomorrow if well. Shall have a washerwoman next week. I think we [illegible] [illegible] none [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], and I want to [illegible] [illegible] bed quilts [illegible] washed before we [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] arranged you see [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] called [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], with an invitation to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible]. I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] indeed. [illegible]. [illegible], by [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible]

Bangor

Aug. 14 1852

Bangor Aug. 14. 1852

Dear Mother

We rec'd a very short, and apparently hurried letter, from Anne a few days since, and yesterday a similar one from Isaac & Antoinette. Very much obliged - and suppose I should address my letter to some one or more of the writers of those, but you know "dear Mother" generally comprehends the family. It is almost noon and I am writing in haste so as to send this to the Office by Elisha when he goes from dinner. Samuel has a box in the P.O. now, so we can get letters at all times. He has not been at all well for several days, but is much better - and did not go to the mill but two or three times for a week. Yesterday P.M. we called on Mrs. Thayer, then to Mrs. Crosby's, took Margaret with us and called at Mr. Mason's, which we have so long intended to do, then back to Mrs. Crosby's to tea. They

I have made six pounds of flour into cake & got it all baked this forenoon - & been some tired -

had five other company's to tea. Margaret intends to return to Ipswich, though I do not believe she is well enough. We did expect Isaac & Nettie this week - perhaps the letters forwarded with this will send him next week. I am afraid you keep Nettie dressmaking too much. I went to get buff cambric which Anna sent for and found her trunk locked. It was not in band basket.

I have teased Elijah to write to you - he says he does not have time. So you ought some of you to write to him. He looked very indeed sad and fairly sick when he came home from Hampton but said nothing only "Maria is sick." After a few days he rec'd a letter, which he showed me. The writer seemed to be in a very excited state of mind. Then he told me that he considered her slightly deranged when he was there - she got very much fatigued & excited examination day - seemed very much dejected & melancholy - thought she had done wrong to engage herself to him, as she had dev-

ted herself to the missionary work, and was very decided that it was her duty to break off the engagement. Elisha wished her to consider the matter while he staid - she did, & decided, the last thing before he came away, that it was best to give it all up, but promised to write to him once more - well, in a few days came her letter, wherein she had entirely changed her mind - It commenced, "O that I could give wings to the message which Jesus permits me to send you." She said her friends had thought her rash & wrong in her decision, & she now felt that it would be right for her to accept him. Elisha hardly knew what to do. I did feel for him very much. I am afraid he runs a fearful risk if he marries her, in regard to her health. and if he should not, I think they would both be very unhappy - At first he did not wish me to write to you anything about it, but when I wanted him to write & get you to advise him, he said he couldn't, that I might write what I pleased. I think he will write you soon, & perhaps you

had better not say anything about it till he does. He wrote a most excellent letter to Miss Ely after receiving his. I thought it was worded just right - he read it to me to see what I thought of it. You must be aware, that it was rather a difficult letter to write under the circumstances.

The Aug. Messengers, Almeda's patched dress are ready to go up. I am waiting till Nettie comes before I get the other articles. I have been to meeting two days, and expect to go again tomorrow.

Mrs. Charles Higgins came home yesterday - has been at Boston three weeks under the care of Dr. Girardin - when she went away, was given up by Dr. Rice - could not walk a step - not expected to live but a few days - before she left Boston, walked 1½ miles, took care of her sister, who was seen sick, on the way home, and this morning is perambulating the streets with the step of a well-person! It seems really wonderful - We shall probably move the last of next month - In expeditious haste - and much love. Lucy

Bangor
Aug. 28 1852

Bangor Aug. 27. 1852.

Dear ones all

It is twenty minutes past five P.M. We had dinner at the past twelve, since which time besides making my toilet &c. I have worked a lace cap entire for Almeda. Lucy was about sick yesterday - laid on the sofa about all day - I feared would have a fever, but is much better today. been sewing most of the afternoon; June is getting tea - Susan and Nettie gone shopping and to ride. Poor Nettie has been hurrying about almost every moment since she came here - so wearisome to be running to, attending meetings and at the [illegible] a wearisome week the next will be for her, and then the packing, parting with friends and the long journey. I fear she will be sick.

About Almeda's shawl. Nettie understood it very decidedly to get a black silk shawl at any rate -

[illegible]. There is [illegible] one would be [illegible] them more, to get that. Isaac fretted wonderfully about it. It has been re-turned today, and Nettie is going to get a plain piece of black silk in a mantle with fringe for the ends.

Our house comes on finely. Mr. Sebbets will be out in a very few days - the painters are at work up stairs now - the dining room and all about the kitchen is so conven-ient. We expect to move sometime in Sept.

Mr S. considers himself discharged from here as soon as he can find an-other boarding place. Isaac has had 12 or 15 dollars worth of daguerreotypes taken - some grand good ones - no poor ones. We are expecting you next Thurs-day without fail, Anna - When will Mother come? We were all invited to tea at Mr. Romulus Haskins' last evening (Mr. Sebbets and all) but at noon Mrs. H. sent counter orders, as the children were sick, so we escaped that time. I hurried and got my new gown done to wear

too. It fits very prettily. I must not stop longer now - you can hardly imagine what a continuous whirling hurry we have all been in since they came. It seems as if we have no good visit at all, though we all try to enjoy it as we go along.

Sabbath noon - Have been to church this forenoon - heard Mr. Caldwell - have been for five or six sabbaths & not heard Mr. Steward yet. Mother it is decided among your children here that you are to come down when Anna comes without fail to have your portrait painted - there is an itinerant artist in town of acknowledged talent who paints for a comparatively low price - you can never get a good daguerreotype, try as much as you will - so please do not say one word against it, but come - you ought to for our sakes. Eliab will write you about it - He will come to the house - so you need be at no

trouble about it - The whole matter is decided - there is no alternative but for you to come as quick as possible, as he does not remain here long. It is a rare opportunity. His portraits are said to be more perfect than Mr. [illegible]'s. Irene and Elliott have examined them - Come and we may come. [illegible] [illegible] work [illegible] - that can be put up - this [illegible] - bring it with you and I will do it - We have not finished the dress for Lucy - There has not been a day [illegible] room to spare.

Elliott has finished his letter - I really thought he was going to write a good long one. You see what he says - He seems to expect me to perform his duty for him - You must talk to him. In haste

Lucy -

Bangor
Sept. 25. 1852

Bangor Sept. 25 1852

Dear Mother—

Your good letter was rec'd yesterday noon—greatly obliged—we really intended to write by yesterday's mail, but the same old story—we were so busy. The musical Convention, which Anne has attended but little, for lack of time, then she has been having a bonnet made, which she had to go down street to see about some—And we both went shopping one day—then yesterday Mrs. Shepherd and Lizzie Ire came to tea &c. &c. &c. We have scalded the plum preserve & added sugar thereto, made tomato pickles & catsup, besides fixing over the bedroom, & front chamber carpets, and making a new woolen carpet for the entry—we found a remnant—very good and cheap—Anne and I have both got our new dresses made—we could not match the front chamber carpet—shall cover with bocking—Anne slept considerable the forenoon you went away, and

felt quite nicely in the afternoon. We are making a Bagatelle. Anne is just going down Street, so I am writing a little just as fast as I can to send to the Office, that you need not be disappointed again Monday. Am sorry you had so unpleasant a time going home - glad Almeda is so "blooming" and happy - I want to see her in her new abode dreadfully - hope you will find your way up there soon - I hope Charles will bring us some butter - we can have no more from Mrs. Crosby's, and if she can spare it, shall depend on Albina's butter henceforth. We shall probably begin moving Tuesday. We had a letter from Nettie, dated Cleaveland Ohio, last night - no news - pleasant journey - both well - presume you will hear from them as often as we shall. Lizzie is coming to spend the night & go to Church from here tomorrow morning - She will probably be here considerable - We would, with all our hearts, write advice and everything about Charlie's selling

the farm if we knew what to say - Of
course we shall all talk accordin
to the best of our ability when he
comes down - I don't think of any-
thing more to write and I must
finish my carpet as Samuel
wants to put it down - good bye
do write often Lucy
How did Albina li[illegible] her things?

Mrs. Anna M. Metcalf,
Milo
Maine

Shepherd's being obliged to leave town next Friday, we felt it necessary to invite her with Mrs. Webster & Miss Doe here to tea Thursday - (tomorrow) and it will make us somewhat hurried to get "Jerry cake" made in season! I don't think of any thing special to write, as Charles will tell you all - only that Sarah Harlow popped in to see the house before we had been here half an hour! Samuel got an Irishman and two wheelbarrows, and moved without a team. How soon are you coming to see us? I hope you will go to B[illegible]ville soon - I think

[illegible]

... some religion for her mind

Bangor Sept. 29 - 1852.

Dear Mother

We are moved, and as you may imagine, in some confusion and disorder at present - Charles found us just thrown in, in heaps, not spread out at all. Anne is about tired out I imagine - I stand it admirably - my tough spot has not given out yet, though I confess I was a little the worse for the wear last night. My woman is here washing windows &c. this forenoon - Then

going to finish cleaning the other house. She washed monday & ironed yesterday - Mr. Stevens is here finishing up things, varnishing a little &c. We shall get nicely settled in a few days I hope - ready to welcome our friends, who may be pleased to pay us a visit. We have really a good house - good enough for us - all we need to make us comfortable - I hope we shall be both thankful and happy. The only draw back to our present felicity is that owing to Mrs.

Shepherd's being obliged to leave town next Friday, we felt it necessary to invite her with Mrs. Webster & Miss Doe here to tea Thursday - (tomorrow) and it will make us somewhat hurried to get "jerry cake" made in season! I don't think of any thing special to write, as Charlie will tell you all - only that Sarah Harlow popped in to see the house before we had been here half an hour! Samuel got an Irishman and two wheelbarrows and moved without a team. How soon are you coming to see us? I hope you will go to Brownville soon - I think a little, a very little of going to Milo when Samuel goes. I think I shall keep both cheeses, though I fear they may mould and spoil and dry up - The little one, which we have cut is very nice. The cream is a real treat - what a splendid toast we had dressing it - and coffee this morning - it will be so nice for company tomorrow - Charles thinks you won't want the bottles, so I'll borrow them a while, except one, in which I'll send a little ketchup. Mr. Harlow is going to move down into his new house very soon - do write often good bye
Lucy -

Tell [illegible] I'll try and make some [illegible] for her [illegible] cream sometime.

When C. comes again send such pictures
frames as you think w. could use but I think
the mourning piece better be left — the frame
would not be suitable ~~without~~ for other pictures.

We have been in haste as usual are in con-
fusion now looking forward still to time
to read. Mr. E. had a letter from E. Hampden
last eve; would not show it. he told the last;
about the [illegible] she said that if her sister
did not continue to take it she would write
should like of all things to [illegible] but sister there
and such ~~fault~~, nothing! in the last she
said one of trustees had had one in view all
the time. that she was very much afraid
her plans would not succeed but what
her plans were she did not inform us.

I have not expected to go there. think
to go to Foxcroft next Spring would be
both more pleasant and better [illegible]

E. I think feels anxious about various
matters said last eve that he thought it
doubtful whether he should stay all winter
in Bangor: asked me if he had better be
married this fall. — we have been in such
a hurly burly lately that ~~there~~ has been no
time to talk! Lucy's dress left here &
a cape that I send [illegible]

Sept 29. 62
Bangor

Bangor
Oct. 26 1852

Bangor Oct. 26 - 1852.

Dear Mother

We have purchased Almeda's shawl, and as no other opportunity presents itself, we think of sending it by stage tomorrow. It is not so thick and warm as mine - such are hardly to be obtained now - hope she will like the colors. She sent no directions whatever in regard to color or price. With the shawl we send cotton damask for two table cloths - one from Anne to you, one from me to Albina - I do not know whether they will retain their beauty! after washing or not, but will look nice a long time merely for table covers.

Anne has been down street this morning - saw Eliza Ann Dow in Lavinia Kittredge's new shop at work. Eliab has had an offer - or perhaps not really an offer yet - though of a situation away up Fish river, in or near Queen Vic's dominions, to superintend extensive lumbering operations, at $1000, or thereabouts per year. He talks as if he means to go if he can get the chance - I believe he thinks it will undoubtedly pave the way for good and lucrative situations hereafter

Miss Ely will think it "going on a Mission" in good earnest, I fancy.

What does Charles decide and do about selling his farm? We got a letter from you a day or two since, but you did not say a word about that. I have got pretty well over my ill. turn. quite about house again. Mr. Tebbets and two of his men are building the fence. I had no idea it would be so much work.

We had a letter from Almeda a short time since. The children really seem to be entering society, in the way of paring bees &c. I think I shall not have Jane go to school next term, and so, if I am tolerably well do without a girl a while longer. I can't bear to have one so long as I can help it. How soon are you coming down Mother. We have been expecting Charles every day, almost, since Samuel was at Milo. Will he come before sleighing? Is not Almeda coming down this fall before it comes bad travelling? I should think she would. We should like the butter when it is convenient to send it, but no hurry about it - also if you or any of the neighbors have eggs to spare, we should like a bucket or firkin of them, if they can be sent soon before danger of their freezing. If you kill biddies,

so that there are from two to half a dozen wings to spare, tell Albina I should be very glad of them. We intend soon to invite a little company to tea - Prof. Shepard &c. that we talked of before you went away - don't you wish you was invited too? Samuel and I rode down to Hampden last Saturday - the first time I have been out for a long time. Abby Shepter spent an afternoon - and night here last week - we are going there soon - Jane has been quite unwell for a few days - I gave her a rochelle powder yesterday. She grits her teeth at a great rate nights - disturbs Anne and Eliab in their chambers. Well what a parcel of nonsense I have written - It is 12 o'clock - I must see about dinner - good bye -

Daughter Lucy.

I should think C. might do well to get a steady Irish girl. if the right sort could be found it would be good help: or perhaps a man and his wife to work on farm year after year and have a little shanty to live in near by Eliab or Sam'l might perhaps find a chance after a time. I think it quite probable an Irish girl could be got, by trying & you surely must have some one.

from the [illegible]
[illegible] I understand the [illegible]
sister has [illegible] to [illegible] her [illegible]
[illegible] to me [illegible]
[illegible] ~~I [illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] been [illegible]
[illegible] what she could for I
have not been able to any other girl & I
[illegible] now when [illegible] anyone
you know how I am [illegible]
I am not able to get along alone and
I write this in confidence to ascertain
whether you have any objection to her
staying here 2 or 3 weeks before she
[illegible] to live with you
please let me know soon
& very much oblige your
friend A O K

Bangor
Oct. 31. 1852

Bangor Oct. 31- 1852.

Dear Mother

It is Sabbath day - all are at meeting except myself and Jane - I kept her at home for the purpose of doctoring her head with 'grease'. Among other evils, she has got shockingly lousy by going to school. Yesterday I cut her hair all off close, & had her scrub thoroughly in hot soap suds - and today have combed and completely saturated her hair with grease. The term is but three weeks longer - I hardly know whether to have her finish or not - She has not learned near so much as she would have done at home. Yesterday Anne did a lot of baking, and I made quince preserves and some apple jelly for our company, which we contemplate inviting this week - intend to ask Elizabeth Jenks with them - She is spending some weeks in Bangor - called here last week - Samuel bought a dear little stove for the chamber yesterday - can be open or an air tight at pleasure - only $7.50. Small. What do you do for a stove? I am afraid your room is not comfortably fixed. Guess I shall come up and see by and by, and make you

a Bagatelle - Anne and I made a nice one the other day - it is so convenient. We had letters from Isaac & Nellie a few days since. They probably have written to you again by this time. How are your eyes this winter? mine are not very strong - fear I shall not be able to sew much evenings, which I ought to do.
Elbridge & Mills Rider spent a night here last week. I want to go to Brownville very much. Samuel bought a barrel of loaf sugar for only 8½ cents a pound - much cheaper than brown at that price. it weighed 208 lbs - just as he had got it to the top of the back stairs alone, it slipped, and in spite of him got by him, and tumbled end over end clear down stairs and into the bedroom! He thought one time it would go over him, but it did not hurt him a bit, - only bruised the stairs pretty badly. Our garden fence is in process of building I want you should come down here and see how we look: should think you would want to see how yourself looks too - we keep you shut up in a dark room most of the time. I wish I could send Albina a tumbler of my apple jelly, but she can make some very easily, and it is so nice - just take a few apples, cut them in thin slices, cores, parings and all, stew them

till soft, then strain through a coarse cloth or sieve, taking care not to get too much of the apple itself through, - not much beside the juice - then add a pint of sugar to a pint of juice and boil half an hour or so, till, on cooling, it thickens - the apples want to be just covered with water - loaf sugar makes nicer than brown - It is nice - I would make a little. A tumbler of some such thing is a great comfort in sickness. Isaac's letters are in future to be directed to Du Quoin, Perry Co - as that is to be his location for the present. I hope you will write to him often - we have all written, but in his last he said he had received no letter yet. How soon is Charles coming down - and how soon are you coming? It seems to me if Anne stays here this winter, you ought to be here too, as she may go away in the spring, ~~and~~ you not have so good a time to be with her again very soon. Samuel is going to have a horse and buggy this winter, so I guess Anne and I will occasionally take passage with him as far as Milo and Brownville when he goes into the woods - we can go one at a time you know.

Mond. P.M. Made some cranberry jelly this forenoon, that we may have the wherewithal to make "jelly cake". The vestry of the third Church is fin-

tired. We are in daily expectation of hearing news from Milo. Please write it as soon as convenient. Anne and I went up to Glenburn to see Lizzie Joe one afternoon last week - we talked of keeping right on up to Milo. I have decided that I shall have no time to work on rag carpets this winter, so I am going to send what rags I have already sewed by the first opportunity, and I wish you would engage Mrs. Sargent to weave them - they will make two or three "strips", which will be convenient for various purposes, - so the store of rags you sent me, you had better take back again & make into a "hit or miss" rug, I guess. Samuel bought a dozen real pretty tea knives at auction for $2.00, almost as good as new, such as they ask $5.00 for. Please inform me if you can how much and what kind of stuff I had better get for warp - I have 10 lbs of rags. Samuel & Eliab have each taken a pair of your gloves - The rest Samuel thinks he can dispose of. I took one pr of stockings for Jane - Anne took the other. Such will not sell here. Please do write often - We are worried because you have no good stove in your room - Afraid you are not comfortable. If any of you have any more biddies' wings than you want to use, please save me a few - In haste - good bye

Lucy.

Bangor

Nov. 1852

Dear Brother

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. If you can afford time from your [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. I hope Albina has succeeded ere this in engaging [illegible] [illegible] help. I wish you would write more particular about all the matters of the [illegible], people, [illegible] &c.

I think you and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] we are all too little inclined [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and neighbourly. Charles and Albina especially, because [illegible] [illegible] shut out from social intercourse [illegible] the other humanities I believe both of them would be happier and more useful [illegible] parents, friends and neighbours if they [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] general way with their [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], feel [illegible] [illegible] of the public pulse. Does Charles read the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], and [illegible] [illegible] with [illegible] that are there [illegible] a year of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] you all [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible] [illegible].

Did the children's aprons fit well?

Has Uncle Henry got settled and do they appear happy in their new domicil? Almeda's two sons spent a night here we liked the young [illegible]

[illegible] quite impatient to see Almeda's home but mean to let Lucy go up first. Eliab and Lucy had letters from Isaac and Nettie to day. Eliab is writing to Isaac this evening. They write in very good spirits, are going to stay at Jonesboro a week or two longer then go to Du Quoin.

Nettie writes a very good as well as pretty letter in just such an easy familiar style as if she was writing to own folks. Mr. & Mrs. Crosby called here last Friday; they had just heard from their son William; he had arrived safely they were [illegible] glad and very much relieved for they had begun to feel quite anxious about him.

Mr. Crosby was in quite good spirits; Mrs. Crosby was arrayed in a new tippet, wristlets and new green silk drawn bonnet quite fashionable form and she really looked handsome; she was [illegible] with the house, said Margaret is coming home to Thanksgiving to stay all winter. Mr. C. invited me very cordially to come down there and visit them; we enjoyed their call and apparently they did too. The same day Elizabeth Jenks was spending the day with by invitation.

- We had a nice little dinner of beefsteak sweet potatoes [illegible]

[illegible]
in [illegible]
themselves down [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible]
making themselves [illegible] [illegible]
we [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
frequently and I like her. She has [illegible]
us books and borrowed them [illegible] and [illegible]
very several [illegible]. Our respected neigh-
bour [illegible]
[illegible]
contemplated [illegible] 5th [illegible]
[illegible] that in each [illegible]
[illegible] he has moved [illegible]
[illegible] rolls of carpeting [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] "[illegible]" [illegible]

[illegible] consisted of [illegible]

[illegible] Mr. [illegible] Haskins, [illegible]

[illegible] distance. We [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] indulged in

[illegible] obliged [illegible]

[illegible] Little [illegible]

[illegible] by calling [illegible] yesterday [illegible] tell [illegible]

why they [illegible] They [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] We had tea [illegible]

[illegible] good [illegible] good time [illegible]

[illegible] just [illegible] really [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] apple jelly under the custard. [illegible]

Bangor
Nov. 23 1852

[illegible]

[illegible] are such at present that we both need you. Do not demur, but pick up your things & come with Charles - I want much to see the baby - much love to all - in great haste as usual - [illegible]

[illegible] ... [illegible]

[illegible] ... comfortable ... [illegible]

We must [illegible] ... [illegible]

[illegible] ... ^her ... [illegible]

[illegible] ... [illegible]

[illegible] ... that you [illegible] ... [illegible]

[illegible] ... [illegible]

[illegible] ... that you should [illegible] ... [illegible]

[illegible] in a little [illegible] and [illegible].

We beg that you will most immediately remove yourself to these regions - your presence is greatly needed on many accounts - besides it will save firewood and a <u>new stove there! The price of turkeys is 12½ cts, but</u> Samuel can nowhere get but 10 cts for them - They are noble creatures - very fat. Every thing is high now, not only provisions, but dry goods. Rather bad for Samuel's lumbering business. Has not Charles got some pork to bring to market? Pork & Corn are both so high, I should not think he would keep a pig this winter. Corn $1.10 per bushel - Apples only & flour are cheap. I am sorry you sent the great nice turkey's wings, as I want them mostly to use round the store, & little ones are just as good - guess I shall bring them back when I come. We want to get there dreffully, and of course should much rather go when you are there, but on every account it seems tis expedient & necessary for you to come immediately here - On of

Bangor
Dec. 2 1852

Bangor Dec. 2 - 1852.

Dear Mother

We received your long wished for and expected letter last night. Really, really how smart Albina is - am very glad - she must not be too smart however. I have been intending to write for some days. Mrs. Hale told Samuel she would be very glad to knit some mittens if she could get yarn. He says if any of you can conveniently spare wool & get Mrs. Decker to spin some for her, he should be glad - It is unusually difficult to obtain mittens here this winter, and you know we can never buy good yarn - Don't trouble anything about it if not convenient - About beef, butter & chickens, if Charles is coming down I should think he had better bring what butter & chickens he has to spare as he would probably get more for them here. We bought a firkin of butter recently, very nice in stamped lumps (50 pounds) but shall probably want some more. We have also bought a quarter of beef - wish we had not, as I think likely yours is better - though this is good - a fat cow four years old. Apples I judge are pretty cheap everywhere this year, though Samuel paid sixty cents for the best cooking apples - If Charles brings

some do..., I think likely we will want a few. In regard to your coming down here, Samuel thinks it quite uncertain whether his conveyance will comfortably accommodate three, and it is also uncertain when he will go, as if we have an open winter, as many predict, so that the lakes are not soon frozen, he will be obliged to go the other way the first times. So, all things considered, we all conclude that you had better "wait for no man", but come down in the stage at your earliest convenience - you will know better than we when the roads are good. Anne would much rather you would be here while I am at Nile, particularly as Eliah is going away next week; and she would otherwise be left alone during our absence. In regard to the Mrs. Griffith you speake of, if Almeda knows her and thinks her a suitable person, why please engage her at once; to receive additional wages if need be, and to act as nurse and hired girl too if she is willing. It will save me a deal of trouble and vexation, if it can be all arranged so. Perhaps to come the last of winter or early in the spring - depend upon how well I am how soon I want her - I wish you would attend to it without delay & secure her if she is a suitable person. Samuel and I really want

in a coach and two last evening to see the "seven mile mirror" a panorama of Niagara falls, St. Lawrence river &c. Really worth seeing and I stood it nicely. Anne and Eliade went before and Jane yester afternoon. I also went to church last Sabbath - I want to go to Mil's dreffully. Love to Mrs. Sargent & every body. We are greatly puzzled to know why you were at work for Mrs. Ha[illegible]e.

Anne is waiting to go down town. So I must not stop longer - Aff - Lucy

We shall expect you immediately if the travelling is such that you can come - In haste

early in the spring – depends upon how well
how soon I want her – I wish you would attend
to it without delay & secure her if she is a
suitable person. Samuel and I really want

Dear Mother

Charles is here - and dear Joseph has gone without my seeing him! Charles will tell you about it. It seems as if I could not have it so, that I must not see him again - but I suppose it is all right and best - I will try to feel so. I am so afraid he will receive injury rather than benefit by going, but I hope not - I am learning not to place great dependence on any thing - So many changes and disappointments - To be sure very few have come directly upon me, for which I ought to, and do, I hope feel thankful - but dear Joseph's case is certainly an affliction to us all. I cannot bear to think that he is gone, without my seeing him once again - but I ought not to make you all feel worse by writing so I know. We will feel comforted & hope he will get better - I was so glad & surprised to see dear Charles this morning - he will tell you all about our moving & every thing - Now, dear Mother, sisters, all, you will come and see us when we "dwell in our own hired house" won't you? I shall depend on it. They are hurrying me - do write soon - good bye Affectionately Lucy.

Grandma is very sick - and Pa has got the hypo. horribly - I know they want us to move. - which we are no less anxious to do.

[illegible]

March 1853

[illegible] [illegible]

Dear [illegible]

I write a few lines [illegible] [illegible] before [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] but [illegible] some of the [illegible] at [illegible] come back with them Wednes. Started again yesterday to be gone a few days now we want [illegible] that you should come down next Thurs. if the [illegible] is such that you can comfortably come in the [illegible] we want you here very much now for many reasons [illegible] has [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a while and needs you [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] at the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] half a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] but [illegible]

As to the ribbon you wrote about I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] send.

[illegible] [illegible] to all [illegible]

The [illegible] reason for not contradicting [illegible] Annie's statements in regard to myself is that if you are left to believe that I am pretty naughty and bad off, you will be more likely to come soon - I have been very well - heretofore [illegible] don't know what ailed me yesterday [illegible] fright I guess, because I felt a little strange [illegible] enough this morning - but we do want you to come very much, as soon as the travelling will admit. [illegible] must know it seems very [illegible] Samuel is away. It was very sad about those two men being drowned - one an inhabitant of this place - a great parade at funeral - six hacks and 28 chaises - the other a young man from [illegible] - his cousin went home with his body, last wednesday night, with a horse & [illegible] [illegible] here, and has not yet returned - we cannot imagine why - keeping the horse so long will make a good deal of expense, though Samuel expects his friends will bear [illegible]. [illegible] quite an expense [illegible] three [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] three days [illegible] Samuel met them and [illegible] - an inauspicious commencement of their winter's [illegible] [illegible] some [illegible] [illegible] purpose and [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] The [illegible] [illegible] but the
weather [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] they [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] What is the little daughter [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] presented a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] — We have a new [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] —
[illegible] "Voices of Nature [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] of man" [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] in haste — good [illegible] — [illegible] —
[illegible] love to all — [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in your [illegible] [illegible]
that [illegible] you [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
nothing [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] mistake [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] letter [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Bangor

June 4 1853

Bangor June 4 - 1853.

Dearest Mother & all dear ones.

I find myself writing again - because my thoughts are so much with you that they want to run off the end of my pen, & reveal themselves in wordy shape to your eyes. I do not know what I shall do if I don't get a letter from some of you tonight. I am so anxious to know all the particulars of Lucy's sickness, its cause, &c, and how you all are now.

After dinner - just as I had got so far I had to attend to the baby & before I found time to write again, Samuel came bringing your letter, & Mr. Bradeen to dinner. The letter was dear good, what there was of it, but I want more particulars about dear Lucy. Did Almeda think that studying caused her sickness? Mrs. Lee came down in the stage Thursday, called a moment supposing I had not heard of Lucy's death, but I persuaded her to spend the night & take the stage from here to Bucksport which

You ought at least to send love to Maria when you write

she did with apparent pleasure. Thus far when Maria came to spend the afternoon. She has been up most every day. One day Samuel carried her to Oldtown with him. She enjoyed it much. Has had four letters from Elijah already, though he had not at his last date arrived at his place of destination. Yesterday Miss Mary Adams called. Hearing through Mr. Jennett's folks that Mrs. Lee was here, she came to invite her to their house. She sat an hour in familiar converse. I scarcely ever felt so self possessed & free to act myself before in my life. Really I believe I equalled her in fluency & ease in conversation. I spoke of Lucy. She recollected her at once as my niece who attended Miss Call's school. She also remembered Joseph. Spoke particularly of his examination for admittance to the Church. He differed from others on some topics, family worship &c. and expressed his opinions in a very original manner. Said she formed the impression that he lived within himself very much. Mrs. Bartlett & S. Parker called today. I forgot to tell [illegible] that Mr.

Baby has made considerable effort to look at his hands.

Packard left his regards for her. Mrs Lee says it don't hurt baby's to give them sugar rags. Samuel bought some catnip & elder flowers at the apothecaries to-day. Mrs. Lee says better give him "Loot" then oil if he needs physic, as he frequently does. Catnip she says is good for wind, soothing too, & don't hurt them a little. I don't dose him nor give him a rag if I can help it. Mrs. G. is kind & good - I like her better & better, though she is far from being judicious with Jane. She is learning the "ways of the house" and does not say "sho, sho" nor "he-aw, he-aw" near so much as she did. A recent letter from Bell says Theodore & Sarah will probably start for Maine this month. Father's leg is nothing bettered but rather grows worse. I have walked across the room a few times - have broken my supporter & dare not make any great demonstrations till it is fixed. I washed & dressed the little P.P. day before yesterday asking advice from nobody - he was good as a kitten - I made out nicely. He laughed out loud heartily to-day when Maria was talking

to him. We rather thought he mourned after you - was more worrysome than usual - Is generally as good as common babies I think. You know I don't think he is anything remarkable notwithstanding you have all tried to make me think he is. I am glad if I need not wear my shells any longer - though Mrs. Lee says I ought to save the milk to feed the baby with for economy's sake. I thought you and Anna were both going to stay at Almeda's some time now. How I wish I could write a letter that would comfort her - but she well knows where to look for such sympathy & comfort as no earthly friend can give her. How very appropriate Mr. Sewall's text was. Lizzie Ive has been in twice - the last time brought me a splendid boquet - fourteen tulips, seven different kinds, Jonquils, Lilacs & the dear Lily of the valley. I wished very much the last was at Brownville to lay by dear Lucy. Shady side is really interesting & I should think might do good. I wish Anne would write to Marian.

I was asleep & Jane forgot to give the saddle to Mr. Livermore, so Sam'l sent it by Lord today.

Bangor
May 3. 1851

Bangor May 3rd 1851.

Very dear people all:

It is just after dinner, and I conclude if I am to write by Monday's mail, it is time to be about it. We journeyed very comfortably indeed, considering - Stopped at Parson Hale's to dinner - they were very kind indeed - laid down and rested nicely - nearly two hours. From thence we journeyed to Lissie Loe's, where they almost per force of arms compelled us to stop to tea, though we had about decided in our own minds not to do so. Had a nice time - laid down & rested and Lissie brought my supper to me. Mrs S. is there - going to Portland after helping Lissie pack. The hardest time I had was getting over the river! We arrived at this very pretty, cozy and comfortable place a little after sunset - I was, as I expected, very tired, and feel rather sleepy and foundered today, I did not really lie down but a little while, though I could do so very comfortably, but I leaned into Samuel's lap or on his shoulder considerable. He carried me all about the house this morning - I really like it better than the house in Hampden. It is a fine airy situation - perfectly convenient & comfortable below, and chambers very much prettier than at Hampden. It hardly seems like

home yet, though I presume it soon would, if I could run about the house. I have not seen Eliza yet - hope he will be up this evening. Isaac, I rec'd a most excellent and very kind letter from a young lady of your acquaintance, dated at Concord ~~N.H.~~ New Hampshire today. I intend to answer it in a few days. She has told me the whole story about her being engaged &c. Now what do you think?

I wish you would take the earliest opportunity to send the big chair by some careful teamster to be left at the second house below Mr. Harlow: on the opposite side - I use this big easy chair, but the castors are out of order, and it being very difficult to move, Samuel is obliged to carry me all about.

Samuel will ascertain about the cow as soon as he can. I expect Lizzie will be here some next week. I wish you could find out & write by Tuesday's mail, or as soon as practicable ~~about~~ the "coronation cord", as I must get Lizzie or [illegible] able to do my shopping before they go.

Isaac's letter is not in any of these books. Samuel says he certainly saw it once in one of the drawers under the glass.

5 o'clock P.M. What do you think! Flora Tower Pond, Mary W. Tower and Mrs. Joseph Treat have called here this afternoon. Flora married & living in Boston, and Mary who has been nearly two years at school in Woburn & Charlestown, on their way to Foxcroft to see Rebecca who is very sick - They were too late to go today & being obliged to wait till

Monday took the opportunity to call here. Mary is the same dear girl - Flora much out of health. Mary is going home to stay some time - probably preparing to be married. Samuel has gone to Hampden, Sip trimming her bonnet & Ma getting supper. I think our pickles the best I ever tasted - hard as a green cucumber.

Saturday Eve. I think that I shall keep the cow this summer if I can get her pastured as I expect. If Cha's has one to sell he had better send them both down in about ten days, get some boy to drive them and I will sell his for him if he does not wish to come down.

Nothing yet certain with regard to business this sea[illegible]

Sab[illegible]ath noon. Eliab is here - says he is perfectly well - looks as well as I have seen him for a long time. I do miss my dear Mother very much. I feel anxious to hear about her cold - am afraid she took more standing out by the carriage. I hope you will get the wool picked and all your matters attended to before many weeks so as to come down here. S. S. Thurston has gone to Carlostine Jewett's to board. Hannah Moore has got homesick at Wisconsin - has returned to N. Y. Her brother at California died a short time since. Isaac, I shall depend upon your coming to stay a nice while with me - you never did make me much of a visit - I should think, too, you had rather be here some, so as to know what is going on. I must finish this to send to the Office when the folks go to meeting. So please all write often. Cannot Charles & Gilbrine ever squeeze out a letter to me? Affectionately Lucy.

I do feel very sorry and bad about Isaac's letter. What can be done about it? Lobsters for dinner!

Mrs. Anna R. Ridley.
Bath
Maine

Bangor

& Samuel June 13 53

Bangor June 13 1853.

Dear Mother

Your good [illegible] two or three [illegible] since, [illegible] I thought you were going [illegible] longer [illegible] before [illegible] (a great [illegible]) [illegible] and wished [illegible] also. [illegible] last [illegible] while he was gone — [illegible] most every day; [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible] for [illegible] smaller [illegible] [illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible] this matter of [illegible] care of [illegible] [illegible] is very [illegible] most of the time — [illegible] just [illegible] good [illegible] not fed him [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] regard [illegible]

[illegible] your [illegible] the [illegible]

Mrs. Chalmers did say that with her twins she could not get along without them. I understand [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] approve of them. I only give baby one when he is dressed, cramped, [illegible] lay on a pillow [illegible] we [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] was well [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] he would not have one so much - I would [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] him. He grows [illegible] fast - his neck and wrists are full of creases - He lies sometimes from fifteen minutes to half an hour looking about and feeling of his ear. I don't keep a blanket round him now - sometimes nothing and [illegible] [illegible] a white handkerchief. His "naval station" [illegible] look quite right and I am knitting some bands to cling a little closer to him - have got one done - we don't [illegible] him cry hard at any rate - always give him the [illegible] if we cannot pacify him without. The enclosed letter from Nettie came Saturday. One today from [illegible]. His leg is some better - Theodore and Sarah start the middle of this month for Maine. I forgot to tell you that little P. P. keeps up a spirited conversation with [illegible] the most of the time! Mrs. Griffith says that the girl Almeda here belongs to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] cousin or sister, I don't [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] girl who [illegible] [illegible] Mr. Beale's [illegible] in Bangor, who stole so they were obliged [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] it is the one [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] abstracted [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] my mind is [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Mrs. [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

So please write [illegible]

Lucy thinks I should write if but a little. I have had to read what she has written to avoid repetition. I think that she has pretty nearly gone over the whole ground. Eliab did not purchase the tract of land which he went to see, but is negociating for another tract which I think it quite probable he may buy. Prof Sheppard preached all day yesterday on giving. in the morning he showed the necessity of supporting Home Missionary Enterprises "Preach the Gospel to all nations beginning at Jerusalem (at home). In the afternoon the Philosophy of giving. "Give alms of such things as ye have and behold all things shall be clean unto yo." The advantages of giving from some fixed principle rather than from impulse. he thinks every Christian should

fix some bound beyond which they will not amass wealth. each one to settle this point with his own conscience let it One thousand or ten or twenty or fifty or a hundred such a bound will have an effect to wean the affections from the pursuit of money for its own sake

I believe Mr Sheppard to be right, have acted upon this conviction, have laid down a rule by which to be guided. under the working of this rule I find I have in my possession to distributed this year for religious & charitable purposes $140,00 I have appropriated $48, of this to foreign missions the ballance is unappropriated, The Meeting House will (I expect) be dedicated the last Wedns in this month, dont you want to be here?

I expect that P, P, would be glad to see you —

Good Night.

Samuel

I like the sermon of Mr. Sheppard's sermon [illegible] beautiful one, it was with preaching. his sermons are all none. Samuel sat right down after meeting and planned it out. Then [illegible] it for you to think of or [illegible]. [illegible] I think I shall send some this week Friday - possibly not till Monday. Baby coughed a little, cold, [illegible] today & has been [illegible] to let him rest & [illegible] feet. he wants to move - he is very strong - improves in personal appearance every day - I have dressed him three times. Dont think of anything more - good bye Lucy

Just got a letter from Annie - how sad it was about Lucy's place at Fox Cross - I can't bear to think of it. it seems some that [illegible]

Amelia [illegible] and realise the loss. Baby weighs 11½ pounds.

Bangor

June 27 '53

Bangor [illegible] 1853.

Dear Mother

Your dear letter was [illegible] received yesterday [illegible] appropriate his name, and he received the gift graciously if not gratefully. I have had a fine ride this morning, which has done me good, [illegible] so that Mrs. Griffith need not be hindered about the washing [illegible]. He is very good - grows better and better, though he has now and then a [illegible] day, [illegible] mostly [illegible] time looking about, laughing, [illegible] kicking. But his crowning virtue is goodness o'nights. A few nights he has not waked from bed time till 4 o'clock [illegible] more than once. Yesterday afternoon I got Ann Page to stay with me so that Mrs. G. could [illegible] he slept all the time, so I might just as well have staid alone. I am getting along [illegible] about the house considerable - Saturday [illegible] and [illegible] at one [illegible]. Friday [illegible] carried Maria and [illegible] the longest ride I have taken. [illegible] by little [illegible]'s grave are alive. Mr. [illegible] has a very [illegible] monument of Egyptian marble - the grounds [illegible] improving [illegible] - Maria's sister and cousin [illegible]

expected Saturday did not come, will probably be here tomorrow. - I am in a [illegible] of the visitation, as they are promised near our [illegible] - It is "Sister Hattie", too, and I expect she is "au fait" in every thing. I have bought a pair of handsome tea pots and a China set according to [illegible] suggestion of what I needed. Samuel brought up six Britannia tea pots of different kinds and Col. Lee and I selected from them! The China Samuel and I selected together down Street - The stove is moved from the parlor and a fire board of a darling pretty pattern (Samuel's selection) in its place, the carpet taken up in the sitting room - turned & put down with some new oil cloth - the stove is [illegible] in the back room or the cook stove, waiting for the [illegible] [illegible] - Just when I had written so far my little birdie began to warble, rather vehemently, [illegible], [illegible] to put something in his bill, [illegible], [illegible] and called him down again in a very good natured frame of mind, Mrs. [illegible] appeared at the door with one of her splendid bouquets [illegible] for me - don't know where she got them - she has none of her own this year. - These, with some [illegible] brought in a day or two since, fill three vases. How beautiful they are. [illegible] wish I could bestow one at your house and another in [illegible] at a place I wot of.

It is afternoon. - Samuel has gone to [illegible] [illegible] five miles to ride after one [illegible], and promised to get back to rehearse this evening.

Five [illegible] There [illegible] been [illegible] — [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] and [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible], and [illegible] they [illegible]
[illegible] for the [illegible] [illegible] dis[illegible]
Mrs. Griffin [illegible] in the [illegible], washing [illegible] and
I was forced [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] I could
not [illegible] him behind them, besides giving him a
sugar [illegible] most all the time [illegible]. Now
they have gone [illegible]! [illegible] don't [illegible]
[illegible] Mrs. Griffith. She is truly kind, considerate and
[illegible] some things exceptionable in every way, but
I do [illegible] very much [illegible] in getting
[illegible] — [illegible] [illegible] along [illegible], but
how much quiet [illegible]
[illegible] doing Jane's work. It is [illegible]
[illegible] to one that [illegible] so very slow.
[illegible] she will get up a little more energy [illegible]
to do [illegible] with [illegible]? [illegible] last
Saturday, brought me [illegible] bunch of flowers, which
I [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] meeting — Mrs.
Crosby [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a shame.
Philly [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible].
Samuel [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].
[illegible] for the [illegible] today. "Do baby's
eyes grow blacker or whiter?" They grow bluer & lighter
and his hair grows browner & lighter every day. He
looks quite plump and white compared with what he

did when you went away. I have written to Almeda, Anna and Nettie quite lately - I insinuated to Isaac that his bride must be a blackbird as it was "born in Egypt"!
What think you of the enclosed advertisement?

Tues. morn - Baby weighs thirteen lbs. lacking a quarter. A great solid fellow - we have not carried him out yet - & wonderful to tell, I have not been to Mrs. Crosby's yet. Samuel wrote to Col. Lee this morning of the time for the dedication of our meeting house - he thought, when here, he should come up if he could ascertain when it would be. It is next Thursday evening - Rehearsals of the choir most every evening - learning a new piece - Samuel carried me down to the new church last week - It is handsome - 'specially the painting - The ladies are greatly hurried making carpets &c. Some of the cushions do not fit - have to be pieced out -

Mr. Cushing is in Bangor in the wool business some way - told Samuel he thought he would give Charles forty five cents for his wool - Dinner is ready - I must stop - Cushing says bring wool soon as you can - Samuel called at your old friend Paul Dudley's a few days since - made an errand on purpose - he remembered you - In haste & much love - Lucy -

Bangor

July 6. 1853

[illegible]
Hepsy — Jack & son
[illegible]

Bangor July 6 – 1853.

Dear Mother

I will hastily scribble a few words this morning before breakfast because I suppose you will want to hear from us, and to do an errand. Miss Pease was here yesterday; is coming today and tomorrow. She is a good dressmaker – makes short bones and braises, and makes a dress feel easy – She has improved very much in that respect since she fitted our dresses before. My dress is going to set as well as is [illegible], but I am so big and homely that it seems almost a pity to cut up nice silk for me! She is going to make over my light silk. I see nothing now to prevent my going to meeting half of every sabbath all summer. Next week Samuel expects to be considerably at leisure, and I think of making some calls with my "new silk gown on". I have written to Ann and directed to Brownville – don't know but she will be at Milo and so not get it very soon –

My errand is that Maria is not very well – nothing special – only spring feelings – weak and languid – says she has not strength to make her bed some mornings till she has laid down on it to rest – She thinks she is billious – says it is her

Spring now - just about such weather as Spring in Mass.
you know - She said she was ashamed of herself &
did not want me to say anything about it, but she
consented to let me write to you to see if you could
conveniently get Cherry and round wood bark &c.
to fix up some bitters as you used to for Elijah - He is
not very well and needs some too - She told me to
say it was for him. Can you get Ricker boys or
somebody, to get the materials - If you can, send
down by stage or any way. She feels a constant
weariness, sleepiness & lassitude; Don't write to them
anything about it, for she will think I have made a
great matter of it. She's real good and Elijah's
life is bound up in her. I saw at Hatch's the other
day, some four cent sheeting - very thin - used a
good deal for cheese strainers. Would Albina
like some?

Thurs. morn. I must finish off my letter - did'nt
have time before - One hundred and eleven pews in
the new Church sold or rented for $2200,00 last Tues-
day evening. Eleven more below and all the gallery
pews to rent yet. I am getting along finely only pretty
tired for a day or two with fourth of July and dress
making - Why don't you please to write all of you -
You are dear good though Mother about writing
please continue to do so. In haste

Lucy.

Tues - June 7 -

I intended to write considerable more in this & to enclose a letter to Albina, but we hear that Mr. & Mrs. Crosby are coming here to dinner also two gentlemen, delegates to the county conference which meets with our church today & tomorrow, so I must "muggle" away" my letter in short metre. Samuel & Mrs. Griffith both went to meeting sabbath afternoon. communion Jane stayed with me - with the aid of a sugar rag I got along finely. I had a long talk with her, went over the whole history of her life with her and some distance into the probable future, taking quite a business view of the matter. She seemed to look at it seriously & realise more than ever before. She is now evidently trying hard, and I think really feels anxious to do well at Milo; but even if she does, there will be many trials & unpleasant things to bear from her owing to her natural disposition & temperament, which, as she says, she cannot help.

guess I shall send Jane next week -

Marie is coming tomorrow to stay till Saturday. - I like her more and better -

I do pity her, and was hardly aware before how
much I really loved her. It makes me feel bad
to send her away so - I am afraid I have not
borne with her so much as I ought. My conver-
sation with her was very serious, but perfectly
kind - I went over the whole ground, why we
took her into the family, her conduct throughout,
what we had reason to expect of her, the interest
we had all taken in her, how much more she
would have been loved by all if she had been a
different child, and that she might yet gain &
retain the love and good wishes of all, but I "put
it" to her decidedly that she had got her living to
earn, that if she did well she could probably re-
main in the family for a while at least & in many
respects make it easier & pleasanter for herself
than to go among strangers, &c. &c. I talked to her
"well I could, tear in my eye". But how I am
spending my time when I should be resting &
getting ready for company — In haste, with love, Lucy.

Theodore

Bangor

July 12, 1853 | Bangor July 12 - 1853.

Dear Sister Anna

In haste I scribble a few words to tell you about the schools. Baby dear is asleep & I want to do numerous things before he wakes. I suspect you will not soon get my last letter, as I directed to Brownville, - it probably reached there about the time you went to Milo. I have been to ride this morning - have been almost every day for a long time - got my new dress done & went to meeting Sunday - Miss Pearce staid three days - I wish people could go to meeting & wear calico course dresses & feel comfortable. The school term closes this week - so you will hardly be able to attend examinations - there is not usually any public examination - except in the Spring, but I understand there is to be this term. If you had known it sooner should you have come? I saw Lizzie Roe this morning - thinks she won't write, you are coming so soon - She went to Old Town with Samuel one day - Samuel called to see Col. Webster on business - spoke of Mother - he said he had very often heard his wife speak of Anna Stevens. How busied you & Mother are going to be - wish I could help you. Will try when you come, but every day brings just as much as I can get along with - if baby was not good as he can be don't know what I should do - He really begins to know considerable. Am intending

to take him over to Maria's visiting tomorrow! The whooping cough is all about in this neighborhood & all over the city. I must be careful of him. We, (Sam'l, Maria & I) went to see the Siamese twins last week. Margaret Crosby is very low - has failed rapidly for a few days past. They have Dr. McBurn now - he says it is undoubtedly a case of consumption & will prove fatal. We were down there a few days since to call - She is so weak we did not think best to go down for strawberries as we intended - Company is so exciting for her. I am on tiptoe to go to Milo - seems as if I must go before you and Mother leave, but I feel as if Samuel must be gratified in being there with Theodore - However letters from Minnesota recently received, lead us to suppose they will be here by the fifteenth - They spent the fourth in Boston - If they are, we can come before you go - We are expecting a letter, or themselves, every day - Maria is better - They were here last night - We have some dreadful hot days - In intense haste

Lucy -

Samuel had a tooth broken twice yesterday attempting to extract it - roots left in yet - does not ache any now - Mrs Richards (Egery) died quite suddenly Sunday night do not know what her disease was, buried this forenoon. Our last letter from Isaac, June 13th,

Bangor
July 19 53

[illegible] July 19 - 1853.

Dear Sister Anna

After receiving your letter of last evening, we about decided to go [illegible] tomorrow, (Wednesday) but the next mail [illegible] brought the Chicago [illegible], the letter containing which [illegible] undoubtedly received; we now conclude that you will not [illegible] probably feel in so much hurry about starting, and as we are decidedly [illegible], and as it will be more convenient for Samuel to go next week, we shall wait and go Monday, unless we receive a letter from you that you still adhere to your plan of coming Monday; in which case we shall probably not go at all this summer, for various reasons. Please write by first mail your conclusions. [illegible] undoubtedly [illegible] this week and we do not [illegible] come. If we go [illegible] they come [illegible] would [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the school house? Lizzie says there is a [illegible]. She rode up to see her last night. [illegible] don't know anything what to think, [illegible] one [illegible] nearly [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] to keep from crying! [illegible] means to go, [illegible] to Mr. Carpenter's in [illegible] - ([illegible]

and [illegible] not [illegible] it [illegible] as [illegible] us
about it) I imagine that you would not fancy
the idea of quartering yourself upon him so long, as
much as Lizzie seemed to - I think she is so anx.
[illegible], that she is willing to do most any way. She
is very anxious to see you - wishes you could come -
down the first of this week - Her sister Louise and
her husband are coming this week, so Lizzie will be in
[illegible] a few days now. I have thought just
what you would conclude & how you and Brother
& all would talk about the matter - (wish I was there
this minute) I supposed you would start (unless you
decide to give it all up and conclude that it is on
purpose for you to get time to finish some of your
other labors) about as you had intended, make a good
visit at Westfield, go and see what Mrs. Hopkins wants
of you, and unless you concluded to give yourself to her;
(or to somebody else upon her recommendation!) proceed
to Chicago, ready for whatever situation there might
be, if you liked it. Or do you think better to write to
Miss Bright before you decide upon anything & see
what opening there is with her - Sarah Harlow was in
two hours with her [illegible] the other day - said she thought
Carrie Prescott would go for the teacher Miss Bright
spoke of - [illegible] in such a hurry to hear what
you think & are going to do - hope we shall get
a letter from you to day - The Chicago syrup
received safe and sound - [illegible] was over yest-

day afternoon - "Sister Hattie" has been sick ever since she got home - quite discouraged about herself - Mrs. Griffith can only stay till next month, & I want to find a good girl as soon as I can - won't you find out, if convenient, what about the Solan girls? I shall try for Frances if I go to Milo next week - I am ready to fly to see you all - wish we were going tomorrow - don't fail to write your conclusions and whether I shall get Mother's gingham to bring with me - we shall stay only two or three days. So not hear yet from Isaac. Don't forget to write in your next if you have had letters lately - our last was dated the 13th of June. Dr. Mc. Bear says there is no hope for Margaret - says the left lung is entirely gone - that she has kept up so long, she will probably sink rapidly. We shall try to ride down there tomorrow morning - Her poor father & mother, I don't know what I can say to them.

Samuel has just weighed Percie - eleven weeks old last night - weighs almost fifteen pounds - Dr. Mc. called the other day - he says if we both keep on growing we shall be good large folks by and by - I want to write to Almeda & to Isaac but don't get any time - and my head & eyes trouble me a good deal - my head has ached almost all the time since I came down stairs - is very sensitive to cold - the Dr. has prepared some pills

for my head and salve for my eyes - guess it helps
them some - I don't get time to do much - have
not touched my light silk dress yet - which Miss
Pease almost finished - should have kept her to
finish it but she was engaged - It takes Mrs. G.
all the time to do the work - She frequently does
not take the baby at all till five or six o'clock
at night - She is very good, kind & faithful, but
slow. Have been hemming the ruffle to ~~Grace~~ Chemise
today - guess she will get time to finish the rest.
How I do want to fly to Milo! Do let me have a
letter by Thursday if not tonight - Baby is
just as good - In great haste - good bye -

Lucy -

Bangor Sept. 4 - 1853.

Dear Mother—

Your most welcome letter was received two or three days since - I thank you much for writing so soon - I do hope you will write very often. I suppose you want to know everything that happens while you are gone, so I will scribble away as fast as I can. Thursday seemed rather a lonely day after you started - In the afternoon I got up stairs - the rooms, above and below, looked desolate enough. Friday morning at six Theodore and Sarah left in the Skowhegan stage, and then the house looked more empty than ever. Friday afternoon Mrs. Vial with her little fretting girl, nineteen months old, called. Saturday Mr. Pool & Mr. Wallace, two students came in to tea by Samuel's invitation. Mr. Pool has sat in our pew you know, and Mr. Wallace is a very sociable little Scotchman, not long from the "auld countrie". Sabbath was communion. I went to church in the afternoon alone

[illegible] from my [illegible] up that to go to Aunt Cornelia's I see Aunt [illegible] was the scene of felicity, [illegible] the disappointment [illegible] I then ex-pressed [illegible] in the matter of a brown bread cake [illegible] upon. Don't fail to go to Aunt [illegible], ask Maria to write to me - in haste Affectionately Your daughter Lucy.

infant baptised - we should have carried ours but I did not feel well enough. Monday P. M. came Mr. Sewall to stay with us through Commencement. Tuesday morning in the boat came his wife, who had been on a three week's visit to Topsham. The Commencement exercise were very interesting - I only heard President Hitchcock from Amherst College the last afternoon address the Rhetorical Society. He is very interesting and _good_. Shows that he is a great man by not using great words! Samuel attended most all the meetings. Old Father Sawyer was here - preached Thursday evening - spoke an hour and twenty-five minutes! Samuel got all tired out. He is ninety eight years old. Wednes. evening I went with Mr. & Mrs. Sewall & Samuel to the great annual tea-party, meeting of the Alumni (and every body else that is invited) at the Seminary. I staid about an hour, leaving baby with Isabel - got introduced to Rev. Mr. Jones of Minot, Me. who, as I learned, is the author of the little piece of poetry, "How big was Alexander,

Pa?" It was the thirty fourth Anniversary of the Seminary - four of the first class that graduated from it were there of whom Mr. Jones was one. Mr. Tappan, Mr. Stephen Thurston & Mr. Chapin the others. Mr. Jones told me he had been in Milo - taught school in Sebec & walked to Milo to drink of the celebrated mineral spring in the west part of Milo. Friday night a Mr. Given from Isaac's place took tea here - he brought a letter from Isaac - nothing special in it except a lock of his baby's hair, which I will enclose in this - he wrote just to introduce Mr. G. to us. Yesterday by stage came Lizzie. I wrote Almede that she had better come, as the schools begin tomorrow & I feared she might not get in unless here at the commencement of the term. I felt almost wearied out the last of the week, but yesterday and day before, I gave baby to Isabel's charge as much as I could, and feel nicely rested now. I imagine you find use for your thin dresses if you have as warm weather as we have had for a few days past. It

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has been, and is still excessively warm. I have got baby's carriage & covered it with green plaid gingham, so we amuse him a good deal by drawing him about. He is highly delighted with it.

Mond morn Sept. 5 - Yesterday P.M. and last night the hottest weather we have had this season. Samuel slept on the lounge most of the night. Baby and I without any coverings on the bed. Towards morning a high wind arose. Clouds flying, doors and blinds slamming - cool and pleasant this morning. Lizzie has gone to school - I got Nancy Baynes to go with her - shall get her some things this week - Isabel has plenty of time to help me make them, & Lizzie can amuse baby meanwhile. Ann Page is going to bud a white rose and Queen of the Prairie into my running rose. Wish I could think of anything more to say - don't see as I can, only much love to all. One firkin is filled with pickles & we are filling another - will send some to Charles if we don't want them all - I hope you and all will enjoy yourselves abundantly there together - and wish I could be with you - It has always been an impression of

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Sept. 8 1853

Bangor Sept. 8. 1853.

Dear Mother

I have nothing at all to write, as I sent a letter but two or three days since, but I received a letter day before yesterday from Anna with a request that I would forward it to you as she did not know where to direct to you - knowing that you must feel anxious to hear from her, I send immediately. There has been nothing new since I wrote excepting a severe thunder storm yesterday with wind and blackness, which leaves a clearer, purer, cooler atmosphere than before -

"Forty men" - more or less - have "bound themselves by "an oath" - that is pledged themselves to take turns watching by night to see that no liquor is landed from vessels, or transported from place to place in the city. Samuel & Elijah are among the number - Elijah & Mr. Persons tracked five or six barrels from one place to another most all night & at length got hold of it towards morning - some five or six hundred dollars worth - they did not see it carried at all, but tracked it by a peculiarity in the horses' feet - the rummies are so much enraged that I fear it is dangerous business.
baby is in my arms & won't let me write -
with much love - good bye - Lucy -

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Oct. 20 53

Bangor Oct. 20

Dear Mother

[illegible] Maria was here [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] this [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

I [illegible] you think this paper is too nice to write to you on. Well, if it is, tis not my fault [illegible] by Simon for some [illegible] & he got this. He said it was only a trifle more [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

wind [illegible]. [illegible] you [illegible] is a cousin to Mrs. Griffith, and I [illegible] and his [illegible] the [illegible]

I wish I could write you a great deal of it. We have not heard from [illegible] again & I must try to write to her [illegible]. Maria cannot pattern our velvet at [illegible] & she [illegible] Ladies cloth for cloak. I have actually washed baby's petticoat — the second one we have ever washed in his life. Have not the flannel dress [illegible] — The organ for our Church has come — It is being set up this week. Mrs. [illegible] [illegible] afternoon [illegible]

he said it was inappropriate to beg our daily bread in blank verse. Every one who [illegible] to fix the attention & follow the train of thought — "call back the wandering soul & hold it sternly till it would [illegible] [illegible]" [illegible]

wrath on account of my having a few words with Mr. Griffith. Then I was so provoked I could hardly refrain from speaking, when you left home, there none of the young people nor gentlemen in the stage had politeness enough to offer you a back seat. Poor Lizzie sat down very disconsolate with tears in her eyes after you went away. She had a bad cold for a few days - did not seem at all well & I kept her at home three days. and dosed her with thoroughwort syrup - Her appetite was not at all good. - I have her carry luncheons to school, but all the girls tease for them [illegible] there is not much comfort in it - "give me a taste," give me a taste". She is smartly now - This fine weather is enough to cure anybody. The big new ship is launched today - Samuel & I and Lizzie are going. Day before yesterday just at night, Samuel found eight kegs of liquor, hid under his wharf at the mill - It was so near night, there was not good time to get a warrant, so he forthwith hired a team and had it brought over home, There was a social gathering at the vestry in the evening, where

[illegible] best well [illegible] - Miss Pitcher called yesterday - says she don't see as she can get along without Lizzie - wants me to intercede

the story was told occasioning no little merriment. He wrote an advertisement for next morning's paper. but after we got home that night about ten o'clock two irishmen came, (so smooth and good, you can't think) claiming it. Samuel told them it was safe for the present - he did not know what would be done with it, read them a lecture on the evil of having anything to do with it &c. They besought him not to let "them fellers" have it! He "didn't know as" either way - yesterday he sent it to the watch house - will probably [illegible] poured out. I got your thimbles when I went for Sally's flannel - will send them by first opportunity. Why did you leave my old comb? I do not want it at all. In the evening of the day you went, Mr. Wallace called, bringing another student, Mr. Allen, with him. Maria and went with Nelly last Saturday down to see [illegible] Garet. She is failing rapidly - her Brother sees it, and says she has felt that it must be so all summer, but could not bear to have it me[illegible] and says she knows it is foolish & wrong, but she don't want anybody to speak of it now. For

with her Brother now. Lucy [illegible] - [illegible]. She is failing [illegible] [illegible]
so much. 'tis a pity. I believe - I think now that she has known her [illegible]

woman. She has a great deal to bear - Mr. Gro[illegible] is [illegible] with the [illegible] hardly brought on, I think, by anxiety for Margaret - but it all comes so hard on Mrs. [illegible]. She says she finds a great deal to contend with in her own heart -

Margaret was lying in bed just as sweet & patient as ever - they have a bed down stairs now. She is very weak. If it were not for baby, [illegible] I would love to [illegible] & stay two or three days with her. The social gathering was appointed [illegible] by Mr. Shepard [illegible] his own responsibility [illegible] nothing to nobody beforehand. We went to Mr. Kirk's [illegible] they were [illegible] all the time. [illegible] his wife were there [illegible] with every body - I really enjoyed it much - came across Mr. Humphrey & [illegible] or three [illegible]

Mr. S. preached [illegible] wor-ship [illegible] - to [illegible] particularly - is to preach a song [illegible] - He said the [illegible] the responsibility of taking the lead, and a great one too, but every one should throw his portion into the "swelling [illegible]". speaking of oratorical precision & unity in prayer,

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[illegible] particularly [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] particular [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] girl! [illegible] Samuel

[illegible]

[illegible] As for going [illegible] Mrs. [illegible]

[illegible], I don't [illegible]

is [illegible] at all

[illegible], she will not [illegible]

[illegible] for going away [illegible] just

[illegible] pleasure [illegible]

[illegible], what [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] hope & Mildred [illegible] me Emma, ever [illegible] all [illegible] more—the [illegible] here [illegible] sufficiently [illegible]

Cuba that we heard about [illegible] [illegible] had seen in this country. She should [illegible]

[illegible]

of the Japanese [illegible]. [illegible] I imagine she would [illegible] go [illegible]. When I read of "Juliet" in "Retribution" [illegible] the character & temper [illegible], [illegible] I don't know but there [illegible] as Juliet will & [illegible] like as [illegible].

I have forgotten whether I wrote you in my other letter about my turn over. Marian & I were going to make [illegible] alone with Nancy - [illegible] at [illegible], [illegible] down as far as the [illegible] when hearing a noise [illegible] & shouting, I looked back and saw a double team, driverless, running [illegible] the hill. I drove up on the side [illegible] the way as much as I could, but they came against the back wheel of my buggy, [illegible] is [illegible] [illegible] and there you [illegible] in

[illegible] p

[illegible], [illegible] ... [illegible] you

please. [illegible] could [illegible] ... [illegible] I suppose

[illegible] ... [illegible]

[illegible] ... and in [illegible]

[illegible] ... ! [illegible], [illegible]

[illegible] ... , [illegible]

[illegible] ... [illegible] time we

[illegible] ... and [illegible]. [illegible]

[illegible] ... [illegible]

[illegible] ... [illegible] at [illegible], so

that [illegible] ... [illegible]

[illegible] ... comfortable [illegible]

[illegible] ... [illegible]

[illegible] ... [illegible]

[illegible] ... [illegible].

[illegible] ... [illegible] with

[illegible], & [illegible] ... [illegible]

[illegible] ... [illegible] longer

than [illegible] ... [illegible]

so [illegible] ... He is just [illegible] as good

[illegible] ... [illegible] generally. has a [illegible]

day [illegible] ... frequently [illegible]

[illegible] ... We have [illegible] good.

[illegible] good [illegible] white [illegible]

[illegible] "[illegible]" [illegible]

[illegible] I [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] they will be. [illegible]

[illegible] sincerely good & kind [illegible].

[illegible] didn't [illegible] they [illegible]

Bangor
Nov. 10. 1853

Bangor Nov. 10. 1853

Dear Mother

I will write a bit to you this morning, not because I have a letter [illegible] from you. [illegible] though [illegible]. [illegible], [illegible] school, the [illegible], Isaac [illegible] mince meat [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible]. B. [illegible] the last [illegible] person [illegible] very clever and bright, [illegible] fifteen years [illegible], came from [illegible], supports his mother [illegible] is in B. [illegible] — He has been to school, [illegible] mathematics [illegible] there [illegible] on the farm, [illegible] suppose [illegible] prefer [illegible] city [illegible]. He [illegible] be [illegible], [illegible] digging [illegible], [illegible]

wood &c. about a month: Lizzie gets along [illegible] in her studies, but I [illegible] it is [illegible] best for her to continue [illegible] studying [illegible] now. She gets nervous & [illegible] from studying. I let her stay at home [illegible] a day or a day quite often now. She would [illegible] [illegible] this time if she should stay.

We had a letter from [illegible] a few days since, also the same day, by mail a double daguerreotype. herself and Mr. Elijah De Witt. I am in conniptions to [illegible] it [illegible] open, but suppose it is not worth while to pay [illegible] cents more postage on it. Samuel [illegible] [illegible] go to Phila before a great while. Letter from [illegible] to Elijah yesterday, [illegible] [illegible], and particularly Charles, to come immediately [illegible] [illegible]. I presume Charles has, [illegible] [illegible] received one to the same effect. If he concludes to do so, we must get [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] to take care of horse and [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] must [illegible] [illegible] her [illegible], or else [illegible] [illegible] here, and you, of course, [illegible] [illegible] to Bangor. Elijah [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] just about decided to go to Illinois
[illegible]
[illegible]
I want them to if it is best for them, but it
[illegible] seem lonesome without them. [illegible] feels
somewhat discouraged, [illegible] - thinks
he has not [illegible] well in his business
this year. I imagine it would be [illegible]
[illegible] is for Marion out there, but Samuel
seems it would be good for her. She does not
want to go, but [illegible]
[illegible]. If they go it will certainly be your
bounden duty (and comfort, I hope) to
come here, won't it? Just think - Samuel
gone, and Isabel and I all alone here
with [illegible]. [illegible]
[illegible] in my arms, for [illegible] of your [illegible].
[illegible] be done with Jane? It is my con-
stant worryment - I guess [illegible]
better take her out to Illinois. Isabel thinks
[illegible] well [illegible] he better bring [illegible]
[illegible] of them [illegible]
tried [illegible] hand at it except him. Baby [illegible]

[illegible] in good [illegible]. He is just so good [illegible]
[illegible] tell [illegible] pleasure [illegible].
thoughts [illegible] with [illegible]
[illegible] form of a [illegible].
His [illegible] are very [illegible]
has no [illegible] yet. [illegible]
coming to [illegible].
will have an invitation [illegible]. He should
also be most happy to have Mrs. [illegible]
and [illegible]. Have
not heard from [illegible]
[illegible] so,
not half so pretty [illegible]
[illegible] making up. I have trimmed
my summer [illegible]
[illegible] bonnet — it looks finely. [illegible] is going
[illegible] closer, [illegible] could
[illegible] better [illegible]
[illegible] shade — [illegible] very [illegible]
[illegible] they [illegible]
[illegible] any. [illegible]
about nothing, [illegible] true, [illegible] —
[illegible]

Bangor Nov. 21. 1853.

Dear Mother

The refuse sheet must go to somebody, and I am naughty enough to send it to you. It is early - six o'clock - baby sleeps and so does Lizzie. We have eaten breakfast and Isabel is washing the dishes; Samuel has "gone to Old Town" - so I have a few moments before it is light to write a little. Two good letters from you have arrived in town lately - one to Eliab & one to me - I have written to you since receiving yours. In regard to this great [illegible] and ado about Charles and Eliab going to Illinois - I don't know, I am sure - Isaac wrote urgently to E. to have him persuade Charles to go. Maria said it was naughty and Eliab should have nothing to do with persuading him away from his family. I am heartily [illegible] Milo in general, and Cedar Grove in particular, will get along, ~~survive~~ and prosper without

his presence. I presume the journey & his getting out into the world would be a benefit & not a pleasure to him, but whether the pecuniary benefit would be a sufficient inducement, and compensation for the evils of various kinds necessarily attendant on his absence from home, I am not so clear. He always seems to yearn to see some of his kindred, and would do anything in season or out of it, to get them there with him. Charles of course knows best about it. If he only won't get the ague, or some other western fever which will trouble him after he comes back, I will object! What does Albina think of it? If he should go, what would the family do; remain "in statu quo," or scatter? Let us know in season to provide in some way, for June. E. and Maria have talked considerably about going, but I think are rather getting off the notion now. She don't want to go, and it would certainly be a most tedious & fatiguing journey there at this season, & equally so returning in the spring. I think if he goes, she had much

better remain here or at Easthampton. She seems to be anticipating a good deal of comfort in being here this winter. I hope she will find it, but fear she will be disappointed. They spent Thanksgiving here. Several other fraternal individuals were invited, besides one maternal person, but they made not their appearance.

We have had two or three short, hasty letters from Anna, and last week Nellie had two little sheets, I hope, written full. She seems full of care and business. I shall give her a hint on the "growing" and the "muckrake"! I imagine she will be as much in her household cares as ever I was. She seems to delight much in her little daughter. The reason they did not go to [illegible] was that Mr. [illegible] lost his valise & had no change of raiment - though in thinking myself that he might have purchased more already made and proceeded on his way. She seems very happy indeed, and I hope she may be so always. Lizzie Shapley has had two or three attacks of bleeding at the lungs - is now [illegible] at her sister's,

Bangor

Nov. 21. 1853

in [illegible]. It is [illegible]. I have not seen [illegible] since I came here. I expect constantly to hear that Margaret is freed from earth. I have been [illegible] several times today. I wonder she has lived so long - a constant diarrhea, attended with much pain, for three or four weeks, dyspepsia so that every mouthful, even of water, distresses her; and in addition, the gravel and the piles - constant coughing & raising, while her throat, mouth and lips are so sore they often bleed. She has suffered exceedingly, but is so patient, and thankful for every thing that is done for her. [illegible] why people are so kind to me. Her father is very [illegible]. He moves her when she needs to be moved, and he sees her so wasted, it is very hard for him to bear it. I never saw a person so emaciated. She was very anxious to have me cut off her hair, but I did not go [illegible] for some days, & her mother did it - I was glad. Mrs. C. says they talk together about [illegible] with perfect freedom - precisely as if she was going a journey - Margaret says, "We will

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Nov. 21 1853

take comfort while we are together, [illegible]

We have not yet got into the meeting house — the weather is so cold, the paint does not dry very well. Dr. Shepard(?) and his wife called here [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the meeting house — he [illegible] [illegible] and said he knew nothing about it — his wife [illegible] and said they had never been able to get him near it since the accident because he did not want to see it. Lizzie Page has petitioned for a seat in our pew — she wants to go to that meeting. I have not got my cloak or dress made yet, though my dress is just ready to make. Well, it's [illegible] bright [illegible] [illegible] myself — P[illegible] has not yet walked — he is a charming good boy at all times & seasons. If I am dressing in the morning, and he wakes, he never cries — he is as easy as a little [illegible] as [illegible] — has not got his third [illegible]! I think he will [illegible] [illegible]. How we [illegible] [illegible], [illegible], laughing [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. We had a letter from Ellen Brown [illegible] [illegible] with [illegible]

and a commission to purchase a sofa for her.

Monday evening - 21st Margaret has gone - she died very peacefully and easily yesterday afternoon - Samuel has been down there today - The funeral is to be tomorrow - we shall try to go, though the travelling is extremely bad. She retained her consciousness to the last moments tried to kiss her mother after she was quite cold.

We have just had letters from Isaac - he was keeping house the day he wrote, with a cold; kind of Neuralgia in the teeth & the neck and head - Elisha took a letter from the Office this morning from him to you, which will be enclosed in this if Samuel can see him to send it; I imagine he will answer it soon. Why does not Nettie gain strength Isaac thinks it is nursing the baby - If so, had she not better wean it? They say it sits alone a little - Isaac learned it himself - I never took any pains with him - and always let him sit in his carriage, till, one

morning I chanced to put him on the floor and there he remained most of the forenoon in an upright position. He is remarkably _stiff_ in his limb joints nowadays & when we put him down - Lizzie says he has the rheu_matism_! She is nice & well now - I felt some concerned about her for a while after you came away, but she is _very well_ now. I really don't know what to think about our staying - I have written all the pros & cons to Almeda. Almeda's letters seem very sad.

You noticed Henry Ward Beecher's funny statement in the Independent, about his private affairs - letting his farm to his brother in Conn. &c. and volunteering to give any other information if wanted - recently there was seen a short letter published stating that a certain man was very anxious, & his wife more so, to ascertain if the brother in Conn he spoke of was his wife's brother or his sister's husband. He replied in a few words, [struck out] "I married _his sister_ seventeen years ago & have been glad of it ever since." Samuel saw a man

the other day when [illegible] Beecher certainly did repeat two or three times one hot morning in his pulpit, as was stated, the words "It is d-d hot this morning":- but - then went on & said "these words I heard repeated eighteen times on my way to church this morning, by persons calling themselves gentlemen, many of whom are now in this house, &c. &c." proceeding to give them a faithful lecture on profanity. Such things will do only for Henry Ward Beecher, and I doubt if he does not do more hurt than good by them - they will be justified by repetition.

We have exchanged baby's ~~cradle~~ carriage for a larger one with rockers & wheels both - to first a cradle a greater convenience - Well 'tis after nine & Samuel is snoring in the rocking chair, baby begins to stretch & make wonderful demonstrations so I must stop - how fast I have written, my writing will testify & Love to all - to write often

[illegible]

We have not heard from Isaac for a long time last letter dated 13 - June - do you hear? Thurs - P.M.

Dear Sister Mrs. Hopkins's letter just arrived, I hasten to write a word to put with it before Sam'l goes that it may go by tomorrow's mail - Elijah (Esq. Metcalf) opened it. What in the world does Mrs. Hopkins want of you - will try to get gingham in a day or two for Mother - Samuel's waggon is broken - has to send away off for an axle tree, so I don't ride much for a day or two. It is very hot & dry - we want to go to Milo. We expect Theodore & Sarah this week - E. and M. almost concluded to go to Milo today and take you by surprise - Be'nt you all glad they did'nt? I rode over yester morning & spent an hour with Marian & saw all her pretty things, of which there are many - Hattie brought some more when she came, & an elegant toilet

August '53

cushion received a day or two since which
has been in the express office here since the
first of May - a wedding present not done in
season & forwarded afterwards - <u>much</u> hand-
somer than the other. Baby prospers finely -
weighed a little more than 14 lbs. yesterday.
Is just as good as a baby can be - lies & crows &
<u>meditates</u> half or three quarters of an hour
quietly - sleeps a nap - I nurse him and
lay him down till he is hungry and sleepy
again - but he is by no means a dumpish
fellow - loves to frolic & play finely - I think
he knows his father - Wish I could help you <u>a lot</u>
about all your matters, but my head & eyes trouble
me constantly - I have now pills for one & am going
to have salve for the other - In haste & love - Lucy

Bangor

Dec. 4, 1853

Bangor Dec. 4 - 1853.

Dear Mother and Sister

It is Sabbath evening, and I write in haste because we thought it desirable that you should get a letter by tomorrow's mail. You will be surprised to learn that Charles is yet in Bangor - Mr. Livermore probably told you all about the river being frozen, the uncertainty about the boats, and that C. had gone up in the Waterville stage.

It was extremely bad going - many passengers, - they had two carriages, [illegible] in one, C. in the other - and proceeded but a few miles (to Newburg, eight miles from Hampden) when the sleigh in which C. was, broke the axle; consequently the passengers were obliged to wait awhile, which detained them some time in [illegible]. The other stage, which Mr. Livermore started in, to overtake them, - when Charles came

that Mr. G. had been taken with violent cholic and left at a tavern two miles [illegible]. Of course, Charles let the stage go on and went back to take care of him - This was Thursday night, you recollect - Mr. G. was quite unwell when they started - [illegible] had had no passage of the bowels then for four days [illegible] it to go - continued to grow sicker - no medicine had any effect - sent for a physician, who gave powerful medicines to no purpose. He died this morning a little before four o'clock. Charles was with him all the time - up most of the time for three nights - wrote to us once to tell us where he was &c. Elijah and Mr. Caulkins started this morning at Charles' request, to go to Newbury; met C. on the way coming up here - hired a man to bring him - he has slept all the afternoon - is now talking & making arrangements with Mr. Caulkins, Samuel & Elijah about going after his remains. We have had a broken [illegible] - Charles thinks his cold is better - Elijah had some cough candy which he [illegible] him. Harriet

probably stay here a day or two to get re-
cruited and rested. O! how sad for Mr.
Simmons's poor children! How we should
all be thankful that Charles, our dear
Charles, is spared. But for God's sparing
mercy, he might have been taken & this
heavy sorrow have been for us. I shall try
to write often – Be comforted, Albina about
Charles' being away – you know I can sym-
pathise with you a little. I will send
you a pretty and good piece of poetry [illegible]
I found the other day, [illegible] time [illegible] write.
So write often, and make haste, Albina,
to get ready, & come down and stay here –
Charles will write before he leaves here.
E. and M. came here to board last week.

In haste and love

Lucy.

Elbridge Rider, Charles, Emma M.
and Miss [illegible] were two days making
our clothes, we happened to be here
at the same time, so I had not a
moment to write by Mr. [illegible],
only to put together the [illegible] as
hastily as possible - if I forgot any-
thing, write to me of it —

Bangor
Dec. 1853

nicely rested before he went — he is most decided to go monday night in the stage, but finally waited till tuesday morn & it was well he did, for the stage broke down monday night & injured some of the passengers. I want to hear all about Mr. [illegible] children. Am greatly obliged for the playthings Charlie sent — Percie likes them much — If I get it done in season, I will send him and Josie something in return. Mallie is going to write some — Elijah has a comforter on his knee. I want Albina

Dear Mother

Your letter I received last evening, an hour or two before Samuel came home. How did you get such a cold? That "great washing" is the secret of it, I know. I do think, Mother, that you wrong yourself and trouble your children by so doing. Do make haste and make a good visit at Brownville and then come down here so that I can take care of you and keep you from washing. I expect Albina tries her best, but [illegible].

come to Albina's [illegible] Shall write in her [illegible] — Lucy.

to be persuaded to take care of yourself. I wish I
knew what to send that would do you any good.
If you are getting over your sickness, you
do not need medicine so much as tonics &
rest. I have made some Cinnamon Cor-
dial, the only thing I could think of. — The
gum arabic will be good for soreness in throat
and stomach & the *spirit* a little tonic. —
Also a few figs, which you can simmer in the
cordial if you like. Prof. Shepard is quite
sick with Pleurisy fever — [illegible] not
Saturday night. His watchers. Charles got

Bangor
Dec. 1853

nicely rested before he went — he almost decided to go monday night in the stage, but finally waited till tuesday morn & it was well he did, for the stage broke down monday night & injured some of the passengers. I want to hear all about Mr. Gilman's Children. Am greatly obliged for the play things Charlie sent - Percie likes them much - If I get it done in season, I will send him and Josie something in return. Mattie is going to write some. Elijah has a comforter on his knee. I want Albina should plan in some way so that she can come down here this winter. I should think she might leave part of the Children with her mother, or get one of the girls to stay there, and bring part with her, and come down with Samuel sometime - this is such a capital chance to go back & forth, we ought to improve it. I want to see them very much. Charlie said Percie was the dearest in the room at ... took him. He seemed to take a good deal of comfort hugging & kissing him - because he could not get at his own, ...

Could'nt get any things ready for the children - will send them next time -

suppose! Mattie and I have really been very much hurried for two or three weeks. Did you ever hear of me when I was not. Our cloaks and dresses were quite an undertaking - especially mine with baby to take care of - then the church carpets have taken the time and strength, as well as many others. Baby was quite sick a few days last week as Samuel probably told you. I did not know anything what to do for him - we were up some with him two nights - the first time since I first came down stairs. I am just going [illegible] at shortening his dresses - it seems too bad to cut his pretty flannels off. What splendid weather we have. I have not heard from Anna nor [illegible] very recently - have been so busy I could not find time to write to them. Charles had not decided whether he should go to Elyria. Tell Almeda that Lizzie seems to think she wants to go home very much, but is willing to wait till sleighing so her mother can come after her - [illegible] Almeda about making a Lounge while [illegible] there - and do be ready to come to [illegible] [illegible] soon - make Almeda a good visit first - Much

Every thing is high - I could find no Linsey worth buying for less than 25; but thought it would last as long as two ninepenny calicoes & save washing & making one -

and many [illegible] called here a few evenings since - [illegible] [illegible]. Mrs. Chadwick [illegible] with us this week. We are at quite a loss to know what to do about inviting Mrs. Harlow's family here now that you have left. Of course Mrs. Harlow would not enjoy it at all. Shall we wait till [illegible] turn? Love to all - Good bye,

Your loving daughter Maria -

Bangor Feb. 15 - 1854.

Dear Mother

Samuel is at the desk, so I will begin writing in my lap. Percie is asleep and I must improve my opportunity. He has been pretty good natured, but until yesterday has seemed very much stuffed with phlegm, and hoarse by spells, so that I have not dared to put him down. Sabbath day we put a bandage on his neck & gave him some of his medicine, fearing the croup. I think if I am careful now he will get entirely over it. You say I am too careful, but just as sure as I try to be careless a bit, he takes cold. He has grown poor. The cow came last night - I hope he will thrive on good new milk, though for several days he has not taken any - won't swallow a bit of any kind of food, but is very tenacious of titty! The cow gives a nice mess of milk. Mr. Jordan will take the morning's milk every day and allow five cents a quart, which is better than we expected to do with it. He [illegible] [illegible] - back the little cans too. I wish you [illegible] send the milk [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. The eggs were very acceptable, but Isabel put them in with the others before I had counted them, please tell Samuel how many & he will pay for them. I had a nice long letter of four pages & more [illegible]

gone will see some offence; but if we begin where can we end? - Eliab is anxious that we should go, on account of the recent troubles; but would this justify us, if we disapprove of parties!! Dinner is almost ready, and I wish you could hear some of our tongues and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] good - Augusta Bartlett

two or three days since, all to myself - I intend to answer it very soon - Isaac, Nellie & baby are better.
It is a Church fast today - a meeting this afternoon.
It seems so good to have Samuel at home a few days - You can't think. Did you mean to leave your Alapine dress - I saw it hanging in the dark clothes room.
I really don't dare to think how lonely & miserable I shall be after Samuel goes away - What shall I do by night, all alone with baby. I have worried about you, lest you should get entirely sick going home, being weary when you started & getting wearied again there; Besides, Elijah said you had a cold. I was dreffel sorry you did not get any tongues & sounds and brown bread, - will send some to pay for it. I have finished Lizzie's stocking & Maria & I together have got the sewing circle stockings about half done. Mr. Tebbets came up and staid all night - was ever so good. Mr. Robert Haskins died last Saturday. E. and M. went to the funeral monday, - a carriage to Mount Hope was provided for them. Mr. H. bequeathed all his public documents, such as surveys of Prairies & Utah territories, &c. to Elijah! About 25 bound volumes I believe. Quite a show in a library, though not of much real value to Elijah.

Elijah and Maria are invited to a big party

Bangor
Feb. 15 1854

at Walter Brown's tomorrow evening - are not going. Th. says it is against her principles to attend parties & she will not begin. Mrs. Martin and Ada were in here most all the afternoon monday. The child is almost three years old. Her mother [illegible] tell her to do anything, she says no, & when she would not do it, say right before her, "children will always do as they have a mind to." A fine specimen of parental authority in these days. Charlie Hodg[illegible] has come with the cow - he says Mr. & Mrs. Sargent are both worse, and Josie better - I hope we shall get a letter from yo[u] [illegible] soon. I fear a [illegible] will go hard with Mr. Sargent, he has been so much out of health before. Eliah received a letter from Uncle Peletiah yesterday, which I will send.

Feb. 16 - P. M. I finish this to send by tomorrow's mail instead of waiting to send by Samuel, as I suppose you will be anxious to hear from us. [illegible] has just gone to sleep. He seems pretty well, but [illegible] crossness is apt to come on unless I am very careful of him. I have written a long letter to Charles and Maria has actually written and sent the long talked of letter to Anna today. We hear that Mr. Brown's folks have sent out five hundred invitations for this evening. As you have gone there I can't see any possible reason why Albina can't

come down with Samuel - if you don't come able to come back yourself, I really wish you [illegible] to. Give much love to Mr. & Mrs. Sargent - I wish I could do anything for them. Mr. Brown proposed to Samuel to be City Marshall today - dear me! I wouldn't have him go for anything if I could help it. The stage from [illegible] has just gone down - I hope Samuel will bring back a letter from you when he goes to carry this. I wish [illegible] would write too - she is in [illegible] some one [illegible] letter certainly. I want to hear [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] why did you not keep the [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]? How very [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] writing looks below compared with mine. We shall probably let Mr. Jordan have [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] will help [illegible] the cows [illegible] [illegible] - good [illegible]

With much love
daughter [illegible]

Dear Mother,

By permission I have stolen a little corner of Lucy's sheet, to tell you how lonely we all feel since you left. There is an aching void and how shall it be filled? I was quite amused with Clint, as we sat down to tea after he and Samuel came on Saturday, [illegible], where is Mother? he said, without once thinking that he was the [illegible] one who carried you away from us. We are still hoping that you will come down and finish out the visit you had only commenced - Do you think I need feel under any obligation to attend dancing [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] not

Bangor
Feb. 23, 1854

Bangor Feb. 23. 1854

Dear Brother

Elijah is waiting to go down town, so I seize my pen to say a few words. He just brought in a letter from Charles, which I suppose you will want to see, or I should [illegible] probably write before. Your letter to Elijah received yesterday did us much good, and made us feel bad too, fearing you are low-spirited. Don't let [illegible] trouble you. I am grieved about them both. I think you'd better make every effort to find a place for [illegible]. I had a letter from Emma a few days since which I will enclose, also a few envelopes enough to last till Emma goes up again, when I will send more. Elijah got them for you. We expected Mr. Palmer to spend the day yesterday, but instead, Mr. & Mrs. Crosby came to dinner and [illegible] to spend the afternoon all unexpectedly. Julia is a very pleasant girl - good, rather loquacious like her mother, but the good sense of her father [illegible] her loquacity. Don't we enjoy our cow! Dr. [illegible] gave me medicine to relieve [illegible] bowels & make this bathing [illegible] a very sensible immediate effect - he took a little cold yesterday - the change of air going into the parlor, and [illegible] coming [illegible]. Elijah is hurrying me so [illegible]

all that I want besides [illegible] [illegible] is [illegible]
troublesome [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] - So write [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
in great haste.

Yours [illegible]

Lizzie and Carrie will [illegible] they say
"transferred on your own responsibility." [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] will [illegible] good bye

Bangor
March 6 54

Lucy
March 54

Bangor March 6. 1854.

Dear Mother

I did intend to write you a long letter, to send by Samuel, but the time has sped away - it is five o'clock and Samuel starts to-morrow morning. I have been unusually hurried (and that is saying a good deal, you know) for a few days, as Edmund bought a whole pig, which gave me some work to do, and a [illegible] was going with Samuel, I wanted to get done last week. Then Friday Lizzie Taylor came to piece the [illegible] they [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible]; besides my usual work & baby - Percie is somewhat troublesome, crying for me nowadays - if I leave the room a moment, he is almost sure to cry; I carry him with me frequently because he will cry if I leave him - He is getting to feed nicely now - that is, he drinks new milk twice a day, and nibbles a crust of bread occasionally, He would eat a good deal if we [illegible] him at the table. [illegible] [illegible] we are just beginning the "[illegible] shirts". She is also working some [illegible] [illegible] for the "Orbeum". I called at Mrs. [illegible]'s with Percie a few days since - She has a fine little boy (William [illegible]) two months old - [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. She took [illegible].

home and got along beautifully. She seems domestic and happy as need be. I hardly know what we are going to do while Isabel is gone. I can hardly get along some days now; however, I presume we shall manage some way. Eliza will not come down to dinner.

I think you must all have had a nice time at Ohio all sick together. I want very much to hear how your cold is and how H. and all are. I should think Lina would be almost worn out. I am in a great hurry. Tilly is worrying. Hattie will write some. I suppose Samuel will tell you the news and how many wonderful things Pierce can do. We had letters from Isaac & Nellie a few days since — no special news. In haste, with much love to Albion and all,

Lucy.

Father, John and Bell are all going to be married before long. Father to a widow lady visiting in St. Paul, forty five years old.

Bangor
March 15 1854

Lucy March 1854

Bangor March 15 - 1854.

Dear Mother

It is eight o'clock in the evening. Percie has just gone to sleep. Elijah and Mallie are seated on either side the Bagatelle before the fire; the former reading a newspaper, the latter finishing off the "Corban" work, which has been a dead eye-sore and drag this long time. We hope to commence the "Shepard Shirts," (that is cutting them out) tomorrow. Percie has been rather troublesome days and restless nights lately. his sixth tooth is just coming through. I only nursed him twelve times last night. He is good only when I know his teeth pain him; but he is just learning to stand and requires a good deal of attention, as you know. He has not had a bad bump yet, though he fell out of the cradle this morning. I was sitting close by it, and he fell partly on me. We have both had a pretty hard time since Isabel went away. There was a good deal to do in fixing up fresh meat &c. (more than I expected when Isabel went away, because of the continued warm weather) and myself being perhaps a little too anxious to get it all done immediately, (which, however, was rather necessary) I "overdid", and consequently got partially [illegible]; so that Mallie has taken almost the whole care for several days. My complaint has troubled me more than for many months before. I feared for

day or two that I should have to give entirely up and send for somebody to take care of the baby, but am very much better today. Hallie has tripped round the house, taking care of every thing, even to making brine to put in the pork barrel &c. &c. She'll make quite a notable little housekeeper. We came very near losing some of our fresh meat, but by corning the fattest spare ribs and laboring diligently at the table, we managed to save it all. I have made sausages and brawn.

Well, I guess you will conclude that I think of nothing but I. We have all thought and talked much of you all at Phila and wondered why we have not heard more and oftener from you - Your last letter told us you were all about sick, but all getting better. I wish you would write oftener some of you. I wrote last evening to Anna and to Isaac. Ought to write to Father Irber - a congratulatory letter, but think I will wait till Samuel comes home to help me. He was married the sixth of last month to a widow lady of St. Paul, a Mrs. Ford, aged 45. I had a short bit of a dear letter from Samuel yesterday - I did expect him home by this time, but he writes that he cannot be here before Saturday. I have written to him to bring Isabel without fail. I suppose I was wild to let her go without having some body else to stay while she was gone; but don't tell Mrs. Sargent so; I don't want her to get to thinking that she is necessary

to me, though in truth, she is a most excellent girl, and I am only afraid she will not stay so long as I want her. Elijah and Maria were invited to tea and spend the evening at Mr. Harlow's last week, to meet Mr. & Mrs. Charles Stetson, Mr. & Mrs. Wakefield, Mrs. Blood, Mr. & Mrs. Thatcher &c. &c. - quite a party of people. I got Nancy Kenyon to stay with me meanwhile.
Lucy Stone has been creating quite an excitement here by her lectures - three in number; the first, "the appropriate sphere of woman"; second, "legal rights of woman"; third "slavery". People generally were pleased, particularly with the first. Crowded houses; they said she really talked like a sensible woman - her manner graceful and quiet, voice clear, full, and pleasant, and dress appropriate & simple - partially Bloomer. I have written to Lizzie about it. We wanted much to hear her, but I could not, of course, and it was not convenient for E. and M.

Elijah goes to a great many temperance meetings - too many for his health, I tell him, and consequently too many for his duty. Perhaps I am not a competent judge, however. Since Samuel went away there has come an invitation for him, "with ladies", to attend a "military and civic ball at the Bangor House", to be held sometime soon; four dollars a ticket. He paid five dollars for the military company, which

judging from present appearances, I fear he
will regret doing, but I don't know, the last
lecture of the mercantile course is to be tomorrow
evening by Dr. O. W. Holmes, should not I like to
hear it? There have been prayer meetings every
Wednesday afternoon for two or three weeks in our vestry,
very interesting. I went once with [illegible] and then
he was at home too. I have not been in a prayer
meeting before since long before I was sick in
Hampden. I had rather go any time than to
hear a sermon on the Sabbath. The bell is ring-
ing for nine. I have been interrupted once to
take Percie up and get him to sleep since I com-
menced writing. Hattie and Wallie are both on
the lounge, "heads and points," one or both of them
snoring. Percie begins to need governing consid-
erable. He acts so roguish & cunning about his
disobedience and mischief that Hattie laughs
& that makes me sometimes. Are you going to
Brownsville again before sleighing is gone? I
should think you would if you don't come to Bangor
which we awfully want you should do, only dare not
ask you! How did you like your cheese? Why don't
Albina write to me? I have written this dreadful-
ly and I must stop. A loving good night to you
all - daughter Lucy.

Bangor
March 27 1854

Lucy
7 March 1854

Bangor, March 27 - 1854.

My dear Mother

It is Monday evening. Samuel has gone down street, Mattie is on the lounge, Percie sleeping in the cradle by my side, Isabel in the kitchen [illegible] an apple; Elijah is away; of his precise whereabouts at present we are not informed - just here Mattie [illegible] so nervously that [illegible] woke up; it is now five minutes of nine, so I fear my letter will not be [illegible] long. Mattie had a letter from him today, which but for the severe storm, which detained the mails, would have arrived some days since. That was dated in Boston; he was going [illegible] immediately for New Haven and Bridgeport, Conn. on business - he has had an offer of a very good situation at New Haven recently; Samuel is hoping that he will not engage himself any where positively before he returns, as there is an [illegible] [illegible] opportunity for them to go into business together here. Samuel will tell you all about it. We expect Elijah home now every day. I suppose you expected a letter from some of us last week. I thought, until Thursday night that Samuel would go [illegible] Friday, and waited to write by him, then he thought of going today & has now concluded to go tomorrow. We are getting along about as usual. Baby is good, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] cold [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible],

Will you please send me by Samuel [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

and lately my complaint troubles me more than before since baby was three or four weeks old. I shall not begin to wean him till Samuel is all through in the woods, so that he can help me nights. Hattie gets along pretty well, only she is nervous and sometimes has the "_high_ stairies". I wish you were here, or somebody else that knows what to do with her; I am sure I don't. She went to meeting all day yesterday and got too tired. I went, for a wonder, last evening, to hear Prof. Shepard lecture — his subject, the skepticism & infidelity of the times & evidences of the truths of the Bible. I wish I could remember & had time to write you a whole parcel of it. He said there was something merely absurd and ridiculous in the idea of a creature who had just _crawled out_ of _nonentity_, and the pins of whose swaddling bands had hardly been laid aside, looking up and asking, "Is the Bible true?" You can imagine his look & manner. He said that infidels nowadays did not go to the Bible for their objections, but to the same stale, vile compost heap where people had gone for ages; they went straight by the pure and holy book, stopping, as they went, to discover some foul morsel, and prowling about in the darkness till they found a little _con_genial carrion, &c. &c. He made a "clean sweep", as the saying is, of Naturalism,

Pantheism, Spiritualism, Infidelity and all the rest [illegible] them all together. It is said that Spiritualism is gaining ground very fast, though people are more silent than heretofore. Mattie sent Ann-[illegible] a singing bird one day, which brought her [illegible] as we expected, not long after, but she said nothing of spiritualism. Mrs. Mr. Battles attends the Circles, as they call them. Mr. [illegible] has preached all day at our church for several sabbaths, I have not heard him yet. People like him very well; think him quite an original. Lizzie Shapley came in this afternoon a little while - unbosomed herself freely. Her trials are hard to be borne in regard to Mrs. Webster and her family, then she is constantly and deeply anxious in regard to her husband. He was for a long time skeptical, you know, but has for months, as she thinks, been a sincere and earnest seeker after the truth and is yet in darkness. He is at times very much distressed, & all his old doubts come over him again. His anxiety at times affects his spirits & health, so that he has no appetite for food. Her boarding place is in many respects unpleasant - Mrs. Webster has been at Boston two months away from her family, running a sewing machine, wherewith to pretend to earn her own living. Lizzie has had to attend to her house every day and

her room, & save trouble, taken up her abode there & remain till Mrs. W. returns. She is a strange, selfish, heartless woman — Lizzie is convinced now that her real character is precisely what Anna and Clarissa told her it was. Thayer is a fine, noble hearted fellow, I pity him and Lizzie too, my sympathies are really aroused for them & my indignation equally so toward Mrs. Webster. I never saw Lizzie feel so miserable as today. Abby Thayer spent the day here last week, the same sweet, lovely girl — I know of none anywhere who will compare with her. I called and spent an hour with Percie at Mrs. Thayer's also. Samuel [illegible] as none before. Miss Blaisdell worked here two days last week, dressmaking, for Mattie & me. It is almost ten — Mattie and Isabel have gone to bed, my [illegible] has gone to sleep, Samuel has not yet come in — my feet are cold, eyes aching & I'll stop. The Gum Arabic will make a quart of cordial, I should think, sugar & cinnamon to suit your taste, & wine or brandy enough to keep it & take off the flat taste; I am taking it for my benefit. I have also one of Aunt Conant's plasters, which I think is beneficial. Please write often and particularly about everything, especially your own health. With much love — Your affectionate daughter [illegible].

Bangor Apr. 1852

Dear Mother

I have intended for some days to write to you, but kept delaying so as to write the decisions of the husbands in regard to [illegible].

Eliab wrote a few lines hastily the other evening because baby would not let me as I intended - he has had several excellent situations offered him lately, particularly those at N. Haven and Potsdam N. York, but as this also seemed favorable, Samuel rather desired it and it was their choice, he decided to remain here. I suppose it is rather a large trade for them, but they hope to get along comfortably with it. Eliab is going to Boston again Monday to purchase goods, he had just got out business cards, hired a store & wharf and put up a big sign as a [illegible] dealer. Our neighbor, Mr. Martin is out of a clerkship and they think some of employing him. Eliab & especially Mattie, want very much to keep house & as Eliab considers himself loca

day or two since, desiring him to find her a school - would [illegible] one - he spoke to the Committee here, but there are now no vacancies - I suppose wages are higher here than there, and then "a prophet is not without honor" you know. Rebecca Reynolds (the dress maker) was married a few days since by the city clerk at four o'clock P.M. Her husband took tea with her & at seven the same evening started for the west, to be gone several weeks - How did you succeed in making your cinnamon cordial? How is Mr. Sargent & would not that be good for him? Tell [illegible] Bill that her [illegible] is to be married the middle of this month - What is the conclusion about

ed now, I see no objection to it. I should not be surprised if he got traded with Mr Debbitts - he says with this business the distance would not be so great an objection as when standing about all day looking for shingles. If they do keep house, the sisters at home will break up immediately, Mattie will have "lots of things" from there of every description, to keep house with, & Mary will come and stay with her. Sammie will sell the horse - hay and grain are so high the expense will be great - he will not have so much use for it & the labor of keeping horse, carriage & harness clean as they must be here is not a little - he says he would rather walk usually & hire a horse when necessary than to do it. This is a dear pretty creature & I hate to have it go. Mattie is asleep on the lounge, Freddie taking his afternoon nap in the cradle, Isabel up stairs and the fire most out. I have written to Anna today and intend to write to Charles if I have time. I devoted the day to writing letters, that is so much of it as Freddie could spare. He improves very fast, both in

Jane? is she going to Almeda's? does she want Louisa to come here? If she does, she would have to go to private school - the school she would belong in is too far off for her to walk. So please write often - And ask Albina to also!

... to write to Albina and Almeda too but have not time today

1854

knowledge and strength [illegible] tries to do everything he sees us do. — is dreadful roguish & cunning about pulling off his shoes & doing other forbidden acts. He tries to say brother, birdie, and drop when he drops his playthings. He walks by things all about & has not had one bad bump yet. I did not encourage him to stand till he began of his own accord to pull himself up. I think he is all the stronger for it. He requires a great many steps & a good deal of strength. I have been quite miserable lately with my old ailments. If I do not feel better before many days, I shall send and get a nurse to take all the care of baby & wait upon me so that I can keep entirely still & have a chance to get well. I have been as hard as I ever was, only with more health and strength, in general, to keep me up. Lifting him so much keeps me from getting over it. However, I have fixed me some cordial & bathe faithfully in cold water, & am in hopes to get over it before long. I have got the trunk ready to send, but the going is so bad Samuel thinks Mr Gould will not be down again at present.

I want to write to Albina and Almeda too, but have not time today. Orrin has waked & is calling me. Good bye Affectionately Lucy —

Lucy April 1854
1854

Shall I send the [illegible] by stage & wait for some other opportunity? I began to take out Annie's things, as I supposed you did not want them sent, but could not tell what to send & what to leave, so I left them all in - have put in my skirt and quilt - if it is perfectly convenient I should like them quilted, but it is not a bit of matter. I can get them done in the course of the summer here. I have sent you one Independent, for you to send "that old Primer" piece. I don't know where the others came from I am sure. Would you like to have the Miss. Herald sent? I want to send you a Colonization Society report. I imagine you all had a pretty serious time in the big snow storms - what a quantity of snow we have had - the ground is beginning to look quite bare here, except some large drifts - we had letters from Charles and Nellie Lately - Isaac was at St. Louis. Mattie's brother Spencer is very sick. She fears every day to hear that he is worse. What do you think of Charles staying till June? Can he get a good man at Milo? Sarah had a very pretty letter from Adelia Dickinson

There is a tie in my circle quite cunning. He sends one to grandmother - I guess - gave me one when I told him about it!

Bang[or]
April 18 1854

Lucy
April 54

Bangor Apr. 18 1854

Dear Mother

It is Elijah's birth day, as perhaps you recollect. Samuel thinks of going to Phila tomorrow, so I will write a bit & send by him. The enclosed birthday piece please return by him. The book I promised to Charlie [illegible] [illegible] as soon as he could read. I would keep it as a kind of reward & let him read & see the pictures when he has been good. At [illegible] there are some very [illegible] little engravings for a child to [illegible]. The [illegible] [illegible] stones will perhaps please the children. Lizzie feels a little hurt, I fear, because you have not written to her particularly, especially as she sent the gift & helped send the collar! She told Elijah she was afraid you were offended with her, but you mustn't say a word as if I had mentioned it to you; only write her soon. She is very particular about such things you know. They are [illegible] [illegible] taking the [illegible] house. Charlie will write you about it. If they go to keeping house, the family at Easthampton will break up immediately, so that Charlie can have things from there, and Mary will make her permanent home in Bangor. I guess she will have a good many things from there, nice ones too. We have had letters from Anna and Isaac lately, & presume you have also. Poor Nellie has been sick again. I very much fear that if she does not [illegible] from that [illegible], she will [illegible] into a decline. Isaac wrote

that they should start the first of May, that he should come to New Hampshire with Nettie, but should not be able to come to Maine. Do you believe he can do it? How hard it will be for him to do without wife and baby this summer, won't it? Anna did not say a word about their time for starting East. In your trunk I have put my quilt and skirt to quilt, but you know I am in no hurry for them and please do not touch them unless perfectly convenient. I will put in what wadding I have - guess there will be enough for the skirt; if you quilt the other, please get batting from the village, as it is not worth while to send from here. I want to hear everything about Sally & Lizzy's baby; how you like them, how much & at what time she works, where they sleep &c. How Jane felt about going away and everything else. Please do, Elvira, write. I was quite miserable a few days, then a little better, and now rather poorly again. We tried to find somebody to come here, but could not. Fear of [illegible] is all that prevents me from sending for Maria [illegible] to come & stay a while. I think it would be a good thing for her & have her [illegible] here, with the care [illegible]. I don't seem to get any chance to get well. However soon [illegible] and [illegible] will go away probably, & then Isabel can leave more time to help me. Maria R. would not do at all for Hallie. She must have somebody to get breakfast [illegible], [illegible] things, wash & iron nice articles, &c. &c. She expects to [illegible] from Easthampton. If convenient, please [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] with [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible]. [illegible] I must lie down - Hallie will write. Love to everybody - Your affectionate [illegible]

Bangor Apr. 22 1854.

Dear Brother

I will write a few words to send by Monday's mail, merely on business. The Tebbetts house cannot be had, much to Eliza's and Beatrice's disappointment, and they cannot go back to Mr. Prince's to board. There is no suitable house either for rent or for sale, and they can find no other boarding place, so of course they must stay here, and we must all accommodate ourselves to circumstances and do the best we can. Property of all kinds is going up at a rapid rate; rents, house lots and houses are increasing in value, that is, prices are raised, every day. Well, they will be here probably all through whatever may take place, summer and fall. I am really very poorly. This complaint has never troubled me so much before. I was weak, and had the injury to my back along with it [illegible], but this has never been so [illegible]; it never troubled me nights before. Now I feel the pain and weakness when in bed, as if I could not get up again. I do walk into the bedroom and kitchen [illegible] up it, and of course have to lift and take care of [illegible] more or less as best I can, but I am so afraid I shall get fairly down in my back, I don't know what to do. I feel debilitated & strengthless, and must have somebody to relieve me from the care of [illegible] immediately. I thought when they expected to go away so soon, I would try to worry along till they got [illegible] could come

[illegible] so much farther. The chief trouble is she is extremely nervous. Please write [illegible] coming, very

help me more. I wish you would [illegible] if [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] come immediately, & if possible to [illegible] [illegible] come
without company, such as I mentioned in my last. Of
course [illegible] [illegible] to the [illegible] [illegible] want of [illegible]
to [illegible] in the room with me [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], or take
him out doors &c. I will try [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], &c. and I
[illegible] think it might be a benefit to the [illegible]. Her work
will not be hard & I should think her wages ought to be
right. I sent for Dr. [illegible] day before yesterday, he [illegible]
me medicine which he thought would [illegible] me, but
[illegible] [illegible] is the [illegible] thing. [illegible] I must not [illegible]
[illegible]. I told him I couldn't keep it. He said I must
wean him immediately, as [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. The
trouble, so I began yesterday. He got along pretty well
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] get him to sleep. I think
the breast pipe which I have [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible], but I suppose I shall [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
days. I am going to send for Mrs. [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible]
tell me how to manage my [illegible] [illegible]. I have written a long
and dolorous story about it, but I knew you would want to
know just how we are. In truth I never felt so [illegible]
before. I had been so well & taken so much comfort in
being so, & had anticipated so much in being able to
go out in the garden & [illegible] with Baby this summer.
It almost seems as if I could [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. But perhaps
when he is fairly weaned and the spring weather [illegible]
[illegible], I shall feel better. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] the horse, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] together [illegible] [illegible], [illegible]
shall have more [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] quite [illegible] & [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

I expect the [illegible] will begin on the [illegible] [illegible] day. If you [illegible] want the very earliest [illegible] [illegible] when [illegible] comes.

Bangor
April 25 '54

Bangor Apr. 25. 1854.

Dear Mother

"You need not send that corn". I hope this letter will reach you before you have spoken to Mr. Ricker's people. Lizzie Thacher has an orphan niece fourteen years old, who is, in a sense, on her hands. She is a very lovely disposition, pleasant girl, has been living in Bangor as a second girl some time, understands her place and duties & would probably be much more serviceable to me than Mr. Ricker's, besides I can know her today, which is more favorable. Lizzie is going away soon & feels very anxious to find her a good place. We shall give her fifty cents a week, I suppose. Lizzie has a great many trials of one kind and another.

Samuel has never liked the plan of getting Maria here very well - I hardly know whether on account of peculiarities in the family, or her eye, or the trouble of it. I have felt a little better yesterday & today. Percie is very good about going to sleep - seems to think that when he is laid down he must shut his eyes & sleep immediately - slept all night before last without waking, but worries & cries a good deal days. I intend to have Esther keep him out doors a good deal.

In haste, with love,

Lucy.

Lucy
April 1854

Bangor

April 29 54

Clara
April

Bangor Apr. 29 - 1854.

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Dear Mother

I should not write again so soon, as we have sent so many missives lately, were it not for the fear that you will worry about us if I do not. Things have managed queerly about my getting any body to help me, and we finally concluded that it was not right to have any more help! So Maria has taken a good deal of care of baby and we have got along without. In the first place we sent for Mrs. Bates, a regular nurse, to come and take charge of Percie & I as we needed, but she had just engaged herself elsewhere, then for a good little scotch girl of Mrs. Harlow's recommending, who could not come then, next for a girl we heard of through Mr. Pages' people, whose grandmother said she might come, but who never made her appearance; next for M. Kicker, but just as we had dispatched the letter, Lizzie she heard of our necessities and felt so distressed lest that the chance was lost for her orphan niece, that she forthwith sent another letter countermanding orders, as you know. Next then, instead of her coming here today as I expected, she sent with a note from Lizzie, saying that her mother was not well and wanted the granddaughter. She was apparently sorry and said that she might stay with me a little while.

ing if I said so, or at least till I could write again for the Irish girl, but we had had so much fuss that Maria said we had rather take a little more care of Percie for a while than to have any body come. Then you know two girls are apt to make trouble together. Baby is about weaned now, I feel considerably better than I did, partly owing to Dr. Paine's medicine I think & partly to weaning the baby. I think with care we shall get along nicely now. Percie is very good nights - several nights he has not waked to ask for food at all. When he does, he drinks his milk & goes immediately to sleep, but days he worries most all the time. He has grown poor very much within a fortnight & is not so strong to stand as some days ago; He has been very costive indeed, since I began to wean him - I am giving him now some of Dr. Paine's little powders, which begin to help him. Please don't worry about us - I dare say we shall all do nicely in a little while. It would have been the extreme of comfort if you could have been here the past three weeks, but I know it is not best. I would not have you fail of making Lucinda a good long visit this spring for any thing. Do make yourself happy & at home there, and comfort her ever so much & be comforted yourself. Also write me from there now [illegible]

manages & prospers. I really do not think it is Almeda's duty to try her own patience overmuch, or run the risk of injuring Lizzie for the sake of having her there. I shall try to write to Jane soon. A vessel loaded with corn and flour was sunk by the ice going out, at Hampden this week - has been towed up to Bangor. Samuel & Elijah have bought some seven hundred bushels of the damaged corn, which they hope to sell profitably, especially if the weather is such that it will dry soon. Letter from Susan & Nettie yesterday. Nettie is better - I wish she had some help about getting ready to come - fear she is not able to make the necessary preparations alone.

ing if I could so, or at least till I could write again for the Irish girl, but we had had so much fuss that Maria said she would rather have a little more care & peace for a while than to have any body come. Then you know two girls are apt to make trouble together. Baby is about weaned now, I feel considerably better than I did, partly owing to Dr. Kane's medicine I think & partly to weaning the baby. I think with care we shall get along nicely now. Percie is very good nights several nights he has not waked to ask for food at all.

S. and Fr. have both had [illegible] within a few days. There are but a few white spots to be seen on the ground here. Our terrace is perfectly green. How is your lame shoulder? How did Charlie like his room. How is Mr. Sargent? Why [illegible] would do his work for him this summer? You said about the horses. Do write all about Charlie's proceedings – how the house looks after painting, &c. &c. If possible, do have Walter fix up in the yard &c. and dig up the lawn so it may come green there. Good bye, with much love to all

[illegible]

Bangor May 6th 1854

Dear Mother

A few words in haste this Saturday morning to ask if you have any more butter to spare, either last years or this springs make — or if you can get any good in the neighborhood or Mrs. [illegible], or [illegible], or anywhere. If you or [illegible] [illegible] any we would like a small box as soon as it can be sent by stage. I shall write to [illegible] about it. Butter is very high and it is almost impossible to get any good here now. I shall write to Almeda too, and if she and [illegible] both send a box, it will not come amiss. If there is more than we want, it can go in [illegible] with the store. Samuel and Elijah have got a splendid store. The largest and best arranged store, [illegible] and counting room in the city. Their counting room in particular is very pleasant. Very high, with large windows coming almost to the floor on three sides, a large, handsome and [illegible] desk, clock, [illegible] glass, table of books, papers &c. They will have to negotiate some, as [illegible] [illegible] in order to meet their notes, for a while but think it a good business, and an excellent situation, and that they can carry it through safely. [illegible]

Why do you always have so few [illegible] [illegible]

her. Good! [illegible] letter received [illegible]

Bangor
May 6 1854

[illegible] is [illegible] new [illegible] goods [illegible] coming
in [illegible] all the time.

Baby is fairly weaned does not tease me at all
now - he has another tooth and gets better every [illegible].
I think I feel much better for weaning him.
It was too much for me on my spine [illegible].
Tiny powders have helped me too. I feel much
better, but dare not do much. I have cleaned
the room three or four times, and put away things
a little in the morning &c. Hattie is [illegible] as
can be, helps me about [illegible] a good deal [illegible]
[illegible]
up from [illegible]. I believe I wrote you
that A. and O. together have decided to keep the
horse - have him kept at a stable, to save time
and trouble - take him out after all [illegible]
[illegible] dinner, to bring them to [illegible], and keep
him out till after tea, so they usually [illegible] in
town in the morning and up at [illegible], and
when they are [illegible] tired, "Tim" brings them
home. [illegible]
we expect [illegible] have the [illegible] been in [illegible]. Our
garden fence is [illegible] - the [illegible]
[illegible]. I have a [illegible]
[illegible]
come home - [illegible] for the [illegible]
[illegible] to Charlie. [illegible]
[illegible]

Bangor
May 9 54

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Bangor May 9. 1854.

Dear Brother

We saw Mr. Gould go down this morning & Samuel is going to ask him to call as he goes home, so I will scribble a few words and do up my papers to send by him. The buff French calico for little Mary a dress, (Percie has one just like it), the other for "Sally's baby." It is common width and she will need more than two breadths, I should think. The collar for Albina. I intended to get her one when I next went down street, but I want to send today, so I'll put in this of mine. It has never been done up, but needs to be now. It is probably handsomer than the new one would have been if I had got it! You know this was a bargain when I got it; just like those [illegible] got for Annie. The Independents for the sake of stories for Charlie. I think I must have Maria [illegible]. I have tried to do without as long as I well can. I am some better than a while ago, but not well enough to do what I am daily obliged to do. I [illegible] it will be troublesome having two girls, but I don't see as I can help it. I wish you would start her off immediately if she can come. Should be rejoiced if she could get here to morrow. I do hope she will be steady & try to do well. I suppose Jessy [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] would be almost [illegible] to give her. That is what
the [illegible] girl was coming for to do, & having worked here,
would [illegible] [illegible] in much [illegible] [illegible].
Jessie is worried a good deal more than [illegible] he
was weaned - I suppose his mother's milk had an
effect to keep him good natured! I have to give him
a good deal of cracked wheat and molasses to keep
his bowels in order, and I am a little suspicious,
that the [illegible] is too coarse fodder for such a little
chicken. Do you know? If Maria comes I do not want
to engage her for any time, as perhaps I shall only
want her a few weeks, & perhaps I may want to
train her in and keep her to take Isabel's place
when she goes away - I don't know when that will
be. She is a Jersey(?), and makes it [illegible] once
in a while. Don't say one word to her. [illegible] a
word [illegible] staying or leaving or anything about it.
If Almira wanted Lizzie to come, & she would
be contented, there would be nothing hard for her to do,
but I suppose she wants her at home. For me it
is hard to lead baby by [illegible] hands, or stoop
every few minutes, as somebody must, to pick up
something, or run and get him [illegible] [illegible] and
milk. But for a week [illegible] it would not be. He weighs
but 21 pounds - 11 months, 23. He looks very thin
compared with [illegible]. I weigh only 113 pounds.
[illegible] cold weather we have had - seems a little warmer
today. Shall try & write [illegible] soon. Much love.
[illegible]

Bangor
June 5 1854

Bangor June 5 - 1854.

Dear Mother

In haste I write you a few lines because it seems a long time since I have written and I don't know whether to direct to Milo or Brownville. Isabel went away Tuesday. I had another girl engaged to come next day, but on enquiring found her character was not good and have been without, except little Katy Mc Laughlin, who helps nicely about the care of baby. But we are in a bad fix and must have help. Percie had a touch of croup the night after Isabel went away, so that has added to the care. He took cold when Katy had him out. I expected a girl today, (Irish) but she has not come. We think now of doing without till we go to Milo and trying to hunt up one there or at Brownville. Nettie and I have some idea of going up before Anna comes, as I cannot go then, (there will be fatigue & excitement enough without) perhaps last of this week or first of next if Samuel can leave to go with us. I think you may expect us. Charlie and Eliza will keep house. How does Almeda's lounge prosper? I will tell you about Isabel when I come. If we have not had "confusion worse confounded" here lately - Bedroom fixings so we tried to sleep

How is ... when will Almeda have her Daguerreotype taken? [illegible]

up stairs (we got back into it yesterday)
Isabel going off, Isaac & Nellie coming so unex-
pectedly, house cleaning by Mrs. McLaughlin,
and Louie with the worst cold he has ever had,
beside the confusion & noise consequent on
having two babies. You will have a nice time
this sleigh at Brownville, Emma's visit is so
long delayed. We have not heard whether
Hattie has the measles or not, nor when she
now intends to start. Well I must not
stay longer — Much love to Almeda & all.
We will give nine shillings a week to a good
girl through the summer. Company, and
Hattie's being here and all, will make more
work. I shall keep [illegible] till after
Emma has been here. Nellie has a girl to take
care of Louis and do her work, but still the
more there are in a family the more work
there is to do. [illegible] inquire vigorously
in Brownville, Williamstown & else-
where. Perhaps better not in [illegible] as you
feel too well acquainted.

In haste

Lucy

Lucy Yaeger
June 1854

Bangor

June 5 1854

June 5 1854

Dear Sister Albina

In haste I write a few words to tell you that probably, if all is well, Nellie, Aunt and I, with the two babies and a woman to take care of them will make our appearance at the door of your hospitable mansion the latter part of this week or the first of next. We think on every account, it would be foolish to try to go all together when Anna comes. You would not know what to do with us when we got there, and then it will be as much as I can do to take care of them when here; I shall want the time while they are gone to Milo to rest. I have written to Mother at Brownville, but perhaps she is at Milo before now. Please send what rag carpeting you don't want by first opportunity — In haste

Sister Clara.

Lucy
June 1834

Lucy

Bangor

June 29 '54

Bangor June 29 - 1854.

Dear Mother & Sister

It is a dear day just warm enough & just cold enough four o'clock P.M. I have hardly sat down before today - Mattie is taking a bath and a nap up stairs (she has not been so well as usual for a few days, & if there was anybody to do it, would I think be waited upon, & in reality ought to be, instead of trying to do for me, Nettie is sleeping in the parlor on the sofa with Cory in the carriage [?] by her side, Percie has just gone to sleep in the bedroom, Sabra & Mary have gone strawberrying. My back and all about me does ache but I am troubled because we have not written before, so I will try to send a little tomorrow. We have had queer times since we came

got to Little for [illegible], butter &c, when [illegible] this - [illegible]

[illegible] ing & [illegible] every - [illegible]

Affy [illegible]

from Phila - both babies got out of their bias as the women said - Percie has been really sick as Nettie wrote you - very feverish & restless night & day. He won't willingly stay with anybody but me, but Mary is a perfect nobody & I have had to see to everything, do her work after her &c. She cannot cook at all, even to make a loaf of eatable bread, cannot do starched things, about half washes, very slack about all her work, have to wash more than half the dishes over before using them, and she is if possible more awkward & uncouth & coarse than Mrs. Caton. In disposition & temper very like Jane, prepared at all times for a saucy word to anybody - independent & bold - takes evident pride in talking to Sabra before me so as to show that she don't care for me - she is the strangest specimen

of humanity that I ever saw, I never
met with, Hobbs people not excepted.
She is bright & smart. We have had
a hard disagreeable time - about
half the time she laughs & talks
loud enough to be heard all over
the house with Habra & then cries with homesick-
ness - If I could have spared time I
should have had one or two good cry's
myself within a week - however, we
hope, better times are coming. We ex-
pect a girl from Hampden tomorrow,
only sixteen yr's old, but is at least
pleasant & honest - don't know how
capable she is - expect Anna a week
from today. If Kercie had not been
better today, I should have written
for you to come next stage if you
could for I had got just tired out -
Mr. Gould could not take the things
the first of the week - I shall send
them tomorrow - forgot to get any
tacks, will put in part of a paper

which we have - Mr. & Mrs. Lee spent a night here last week. Mr. & Mrs. Hurd dined here same day - they live in Exeter now - Mr. Sewall dined here today - attending State Conference - I have worried some about sundry scythes overhead in Milo back house, which I feared might some day fall on children's heads, but which I forgot to speak about - I hope my next letter will be as full of comfort & good news as this is of perplexities & distresses - Mattie & Percie are getting better, & a good girl coming, so we'll hope for the best - We sent Katy home, because two girls are such a trial & because Sarah Harlow said that her Mother was not honest. They have tried her - Saw Forbes's card for Albion - Make haste & get your carpet down - I fear I don't send back any carpet enough to do anything with, but it takes more than I thought for my room - I for-

Lucy Bangor July '54

Bangor July 12 - 1854.

Mother

Emma has written a little I think - I suppose she told you when [illegible]ied &c. &c. I have intended to write [illegible] since she came, but when she goes she will tell you how hurried and [illegible] we have been - Mary said [illegible] her trunk could not go two days she [illegible] we took the liberty to put in [illegible] two or three quires of paper, some [illegible], a paper of sugar, some cake &c. &c. I wrote a letter & put in her trunk [illegible] her see a little and [illegible] in my anxiety trouble, [illegible] letter by the next mail. Then came [illegible] from Hampden, pleasant & good [illegible] but knowing nothing about [illegible] only fifteen yrs old - her price was [illegible], but when she went away [illegible] take but 7$ - I now we came [illegible], Irish, nearly four years old [illegible] pleasant & capable - I hope we

can keep her in [illegible] - we have all been to

Old [illegible] Friday for a ride - it is nearly

noon - we are all tired, but I thought I

must send a few words to [illegible] - Cousin

was not feeling very well tonight, & [illegible]

has decided not to wait for them but to

go next Monday to Dumbarton - Last

evening Mr. & Mrs. Sheppard, their oldest

daughter & Mrs. Egbert [illegible] (who was

previous for the time her no) took tea here.

Tomorrow we feel obliged to invite Mr.

Horton's family & Mrs. [illegible] - we want-

ed to wait till you came, but have been

somewhere [illegible] with Nettie & [illegible] no com-

pany & wanted to have them before she

went home - We have washing & ironing

this week - Nettie sends much love & says

she feels vexed to go away without seeing

you more, as she expected. I hope [illegible]

a little good time now - I have got a girl

that can keep the fire going without me to

tell her every time it gets to a stand [illegible]

Write [illegible] much love - good bye

[illegible]

Lucy / July '54 Bangor

Bangor July 12 - 1854.

Dear Brother

Anna has written a line to Sid I think, I presume she told you when she arrived &c. &c. I have intended to write ever since she came, but when she goes to Sid's she will tell you how hurried and worried we have been - Mary staid a week - her trunk could not go the day she did, so we took the liberty to open it and found two or three quires of paper, some books, a paper of sugar, some cake &c. &c. Samuel wrote a letter & put in her trunk which [illegible] there [illegible] a little and then [illegible] in [illegible] bundle, [illegible] back either by the next mail. Then came a girl from [illegible], pleasant & good as well be, but knowing nothing about work, only fifteen yrs old - her price was 7/ per week, but when she went away would take but 7 6 - A new one came today, Irish, nearly four years old stout, pleasant & capable - I hope we

can keep her [illegible] - we have all been to
Old Lorain Tilley for a ride - this early
[illegible] - we are all tired, but I thought I
must send a few words to [illegible] Cony
was not [illegible] very well tonight. [illegible]
[illegible] decided not to wait for [illegible] but to
go next Monday to Dumbarton - Last
evening Mr. & Mrs. Shepard, their oldest
daughter & Mrs. Egbert Sonys (who are
preaching for the time for us) took tea here.
Tomorrow we feel obliged to invite Mr.
Norton's family & Mrs. Wood - we want
ed to wait till you came, but I have been
[illegible] [illegible] with Nettie & had no com-
pany & wanted to have them before she
went home - We have washing & ironing
this week - Nettie sends much love - says
she feels [illegible] to go [illegible] without seeing
you more, as she expected. I hope I have
a little good time now - have got a girl
that can keep the fire going without my tell
ing her every time (but she is a slow one!)
Well I [illegible] much love - good bye

Mary

Lucy March 55 Bangor

Bangor March 14. 1855.

[illegible] time

[illegible] pretty [illegible]

in good [illegible]

Incidentally, Mother, [illegible] your

[illegible]

[illegible] you would [illegible] to [illegible]

nobody again! I shall [illegible]

with great care. I hope you [illegible]

[illegible] Anna [illegible] admitted to

it when [illegible], saying you had probably

told her about it. O, Stella why did you

not send the collar right to Anna — I

did not think you were going to [illegible] it

here — as you finished it there — I am greatly

obliged [illegible] I shall [illegible]

[illegible] Would you believe it — Samuel and

I made ten calls yesterday afternoon — It

was a splendid day, [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] John A. Hale is [illegible] here this week — I want [illegible]

much – the rows of the horses were so
near together (on this street) that I walked
and two people were not at home – Mrs.
Palmer's, Wingate's, Bennett's, – Angelia
Pine – Wells', Holden's, Walker's, Wel-
lington's, Chalmers', Chase's, and
the long label of Higgins' – Got home
about six, greatly relieved in mind,
but wearied in body. Yester morn,
Sammie & Hattie Ely took Percy & Gertie
in the large carriage, down to the store
to be weighed – Percie 26 lbs, and Gertie
14½. Percie has grown hard & solid
very fast lately, but his bowels remain
just so irregular – isn't it singular? The
scarlet fever & throat distemper pre-
vail very much now – I hope to keep P.
from it – don't know as I ought to send
him out – it goes in the air, doesn't it?
Ellen went to a wake last night –
looks as if she "waked greatly", and I
presume she did. Samuel has gone to
singing school in the evening and I
got Sheila & Maria to come and stay

with me. Maria is getting all the summer things for baby done before her sisters go — Hallie is scolloping little aprons all round and embroidering shirt sleeves. They think of going in a fortnight. I hardly see how Mollie will get along when they are gone, at least till Susanna gets here. Sam'l has had a talk with Mr. Jewett about John — They do not intend to keep him, and he does not want to stay — is bent on going to sea again — I fear he is a bad boy — I pity his poor Mother. Mrs. Bradford Harlow was sadly distressed at finding you were all gone — said she had had unexpected company and everything to prevent her sending for us. Mrs. Hutchins was very sorry not to have called — even Aunt really expressed regrets that she did not invite us over there. I do really wish Mother, that you had taken a longer time to stay at Exeter. But perhaps it will be convenient to go again sometime soon.

We sympathize deeply with [illegible]
[illegible]! The answer to [illegible] engaged.
I am glad you are going [illegible] this
[illegible] spring [illegible] - it will do you
[illegible] good. Percie [illegible] a great deal
more than [illegible] you [illegible]
[illegible] the whole of [illegible]
[illegible] quite [illegible] regularly [illegible]
[illegible] together. When we are going away,
he begins to kiss us [illegible] down the
[illegible], and [illegible]
[illegible] before he goes out. The great
trouble with him is he is so [illegible]
[illegible] - [illegible] so many [illegible].
[illegible] things [illegible] really [illegible]
[illegible] he says "[illegible]" and then
goes on to say "[illegible]" (grandmother)
"Jenny" and [illegible] very [illegible]. Samuel
has got him a little rocking chair. I
think [illegible] has the right [illegible] in regard
to Henry's being a man! Did I tell you
that [illegible] Shepard called while I was at [illegible]
[illegible] Henry [illegible]
Mr. Wallace, the Scotchman, preached last Sabbath
[illegible] - I have read [illegible] letter [illegible]
Whittlesey. [illegible] the publisher [illegible]
[illegible] Mrs. Harlow has got [illegible]

Lucy

March 31 1855

Bangor Mar. 31. 1855.

Dear Mother

In spite of Grace's lecture about using furnace sheets, I have dared to take one again, but do not intend to overfill it. Your letters were received with gladness Tuesday — the same day I sent my last to you. Our [illegible] dinner came off nicely — the gentlemen & ladies seemed to enjoy themselves very respectably. Mattie was up that afternoon, has not been since. The baby has been quite unwell — she applied to Dr. [illegible] for something to cure the baby's face & he gave some salve, which Dr. Payne, (for whom they sent in a day or two) said had struck to her lungs, and that there was great danger of lung fever. I think Mattie & I get Homeopathy & Allopathy queerly mixed up. I am afraid we shall get all the sons of Esculapius offended with us by & by, — I think I shall remain "persuaded of Dr. [illegible]", William Crosby told Grant a day or two since

that he intended starting for Maine in a week or two. When are you coming back here Lucian? We want to see you all - you did not stay at Brownville so long as I expected - I conclude that betokens a speedy return to Bangor - Jane is here yet. Thoughtless, heedless as ever - seems light-hearted & happy - laughing & "carrying on" with Ellen - Ellen is very womanly - just right with her - We have not heard from Nide. yet. Wonder how the Manchester strike will affect other factories. They are having a great time there. I am confidently expecting a letter from Nide tonight. We had long letters from Olive and Sarah yesterday. Olive has been sick a good while - premature confinement - five or six months advanced - far from well now - She wrote an unusually loving letter - sent love to Mother, Chas. & Albina - wished they would write to her has often thought of writing to them - but three little children, the oldest sickly, large farm & dairy, workmen, boar-

ders - usually from sixteen to twenty in the family - with poor help or none at all; finds it hard to get time for letter writing. No help but a little girl of thirteen for a long time. Percie says "away" very cunningly, and keeps saying it most all the time - Papa is "away" & Lilla is away &c. &c. He goes out in the kitchen twenty times a day, shutting the door & saying "by, by, Mamma". Have you seen any printed accounts of the "Exeter school Convention?" It is out in famous printed sheets - Ella Haynes sent one to her people & I saw it. Sam'l has inquired at the Office where they were printed, but there are none obtainable - I am going to send to Ella for a supply - should think we should have some from the powers that be, in Exeter. I don't like it of them, such neglect! In regard to you or Lizzie coming here - you know I should always be glad to have you here all the time, when you can feel happy to be so, but I don't want Almeda nor any of the

real feeling hard because you stay
here so much. And if you would enjoy
yourself any better in the country than
here, you can, of course, by all means
stay there. Your own comfort & happi-
ness is the thing for you to attend to in
preference to anything else, unless in
case of sickness in the family, then I
suppose whoever was sick, would feel as
if they must have you. I did want you
should stay longer at Almeda's on her ac-
count. As for Lizzie, if Almeda is
willing to let her come, I should like to have
her. If I find she makes too much work, I
can but send her home again. I should
like to try it, at least. They grow less &
less trouble, but when it gets a little warmer
weather I should want her out doors, & I
[illegible] Lizzie can care for her then. I will
do [illegible] as my time & strength will
allow; if you conclude to come back too, you
will help train her in the way she should go.
As for yourself, do please consider which place
you had rather be in during the summer &
act accordingly, if it is to go from one to the

Ellen told her never to speak of that to any one - One night she said to her, "Would'nt it be a dreadful thing if I should follow in my mother's steps?" Such things amuse Ellen so she has to come and tell me. Mrs. Harlow has just got a "box and book" Homeopathic, and is laboring to bring me over to the faith. Now if I lived at Milo, I should have no trouble at all, but could just have good careful Dr. K.! How I was grieved to get no letter from Milo Saturday - Am sure I shall not be disappointed tonight - There is a social gathering at the vestry tonight - am sorry you are not here Nettie, to go - You would enjoy it - I want to go, but don't quite like to leave Jane & Ellen - so shall not -

Apr. 3rd My letter was written with intent to send it Monday, but did not mail it Sat. eve hoping to get a letter from you, & Sabbath day it was so very storming that I did not go down with it — then Mond. noon we missed the stage. I have made Jane's linsey dress over into a skirt — It seemed most too bad, as if there had been a little new left, it might have been made over into a good

dress, and she needs it badly enough - Her two calicoes are outgrown & entirely worn out - her old delaine not worth fixing - she has only her new calico and delaine besides a roan kerseymere, which I have just got her, thinking it would do her as much service on the whole as anything she could have - She has on two quilts, perfectly filthy and in rags - I am going to have her

wash and mend them - but the most trying thing of all is - she has got the itch, and never told us a word about it till she had been here a week - slept with Ellen, handled Percy &c.
Ellen was very indignant - she burst out as soon as she knew it "I'll lick the girl, if she has given me the itch." "She'll not sleep with me another night."
I did feel provoked with her for not telling about it when she first came - We have heard nothing from N. H. yet in regard to a place for her - Sam'l says, by all means have her dress comfortable & suitable before she goes away -
She told Ellen, unsolicited, all about her parentage & told Ellen that she told Mrs. Bable-

[illegible] 1877

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] — [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] you [illegible] about it, I [illegible] [illegible] that it [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] sometimes, [illegible] I could not [illegible] believe it so soon.
We got your letter [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible]
[illegible] you [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] & if he does not succeed in
finding a place in a [illegible] at [illegible] or [illegible], [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] her father, mother or grand parents & compel
[illegible], if possible, to take her. If they refused, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
"throw her across the [illegible] of [illegible] & leave her". [illegible] feel no little
[illegible] to know the result of his journey. If we get fairly
~~[illegible]~~ rid of [illegible], [illegible] we [illegible] feel [illegible], and yet [illegible]
[illegible] thought [illegible] will [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] Do you believe [illegible] shall ever take another [illegible], [illegible]
[illegible]? Hattie and [illegible] expect to go this week — they would have
gone today [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] well enough — If [illegible] [illegible] should
go to Norfolk (which I do not expect) perhaps we [illegible] make
one family either here or in [illegible], as she would be alone so
much, and it would be only three weeks probably. He did not
feel particularly elated this morning in prospect of his journey
to [illegible]. I can assure you. While I think of it, let me ask you
to send your paper about the [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible]
when you write — wouldn't it do her a bunch of good — Ella [illegible]
sent me some, [illegible] you [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
to [illegible] when I write again. Was it [illegible] queer, Hallie, when
your letter arrived, containing the **Lucy** lines, it found me
writing the enclosed — You will say, & with truth, that good
taste is sacrificed to ridiculosity, but when I had arrived
at a certain pitch of sublimity, it so fell out that I took a
sudden leap down to the ridiculous! Only just don't be
offended with me, please, and say I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
your [illegible], 'cause I did it! He's a nice little fellow and

[illegible] ever so much and I wish [illegible] [illegible] give him a [illegible] [illegible] at [illegible]. Shouldn't I have enjoyed helping me to see the [illegible] [illegible] who undergoing the cleansing operation that Mother spoke of. I am glad he and Diany enjoy so much together. I [illegible] [illegible] in my heart your wish that we could consistently go [illegible] while you are there [illegible] I should [illegible] with the children together. You have never said a word of the reason why you spent so little time at [illegible], when you had probably intended to make a long visit there. Uncle [illegible] [illegible] last week. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] George [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] is a precious good boy these days —

April [illegible] I am going down to [illegible] to spend the day leaving [illegible] with Ellen. Am a little afraid he will be troublesome about it — he [illegible] [illegible] home — but I shall come home early. Jimmie came up [illegible] [illegible] night — [illegible] given up his coming & he had just gone to bed when he arrived — he was up & off before I was [illegible] this morning. Don't you [illegible] it seemed [illegible], [illegible] [illegible], have yesterday? I think it did — [illegible] was here too! [illegible] [illegible] must be [illegible] to go — [illegible] coming for me — [illegible] — I hope it is not going to [illegible], as I expect him next Thursday [illegible]?

[illegible]

Bangor, Apr 18th

Dear Charles & Albina

It is almost night, but I'll try and get off a bit of a letter to you before dark. I did intend to write so as to send it by today's mail, but Grace and the baby were up here all day, and we had so much talking to do, as usual, that we did little else.

We confidently expected Irene and Willie yesterday — are now expecting them tomorrow. Eliza sent up a letter for Irene today, which we suppose will start her away. I know nothing about it, however, only that it was from Col. Mason. We are hoping to see Irene with them, but she has not written a word of her intentions. I think Irene ought to spend her time just where she pleases, don't you? I am sure I

[illegible] very sorry, Albina, about the chicks doings, but the [illegible] really came [illegible] first brought [illegible]

[illegible] I [illegible] to have her stay here all

the time, did I not know that there

are several others who feel just so, and

who would justly consider me selfish

if I wished to have her here always.

She always seems to enjoy herself better

at Hilo in the summer, but she might

come down with them, so as to be with

them the little time they stay, and go

back again whenever she felt like

it. This we are expecting she will do.

You will feel slightly lonesome when

they come away, as I did when they

left here. Maria's sisters left last

Monday, so she is quite alone now, as

her brother is in the store. All hands

are busy enough just now. The ice

went out Sat. night. Monday morn-

ing their goods arrived & the unload-

ing, arranging & marking gives them

lively eating & breathing time for

a few days. They expect [illegible] a week

[illegible] all [illegible] spring goods [illegible] thus saving considerable expense of freightage, besides much care and labor. Jewett remains in the store and does much better than he did a while ago. Their boss (their silent partner) rejoices in the acquisition of a pair of twins, two days old - a girl and boy - They like him better & better. One of the frank, sincere sort, yet very shrewd - always favors a poor or unfortunate man, in a trade, even to his own injury. Well, the chief item of my letter I have not touched upon - the disposal of Jane - our "family skeleton". I wrote particularly to Brother while Samuel was gone - he got her a place in a weave room at Dover, inquired out the Hobbs people, talked with her aunt, a stiff, precise maiden lady, and got her boarded in her grandfather's house, himself & this maiden aunt

being in family, as I understand it. Her mother has married & moved away, her grandmother died – the aunt knew about Jane, the grandfather never did & don't now – They never intend to <u>own</u> her, but let her board there till they could find her another place. The aunt seemed to be a very good sort of person – began lecturing Jane with some severity of manner almost immediately, about all girls that boarded with <u>her</u> being obliged to keep good company &c. Samuel told her she had been a wayward troublesome uneasy girl always, but said nothing of any <u>bad</u> conduct. I don't believe Jane will have been there a week before she tells her grandfather who she is! She is to have from half a doll. to a dollar a week besides board while learning according to how well she does. The journey cost Sam'l 16 dollars, besides something before she went away – he said he considered it a <u>good bargain</u> at that, though it does seem too bad. (I rather grudged the expense – I wanted the money for a <u>new gown</u>! Don't think of any-

Lucy. April 1855

offer every bad weather. I will warrant you a welcome as often as you show your face at either house! You see I did not crowd, Isaac, but afforded myself another piece of paper! Mrs. Dr. Mann, and her pretty daughter Augusta, called yesterday. Yesterday and today, I have wholly made (except trimming the cape) a delaine dress for Jane, and a talma cape, of Lyonese. I cut the cape myself too - You will say "Why do you do it? Let her do it herself" - You nor I either would not let her go away uncomfortably nor indecently clad, and I verily think it would take her a month - steady labor - to make a dress alone. Mr. Pierpont lectured last night and night before - mechanics - no tickets to be had.

I think it a fine thing, Nellie, that

You have an Ajax who is as good a
jack at all trades, ironing and all -
I don't wonder poor little Mayo feels badly
at going to bed alone - I only wonder he
is as good as he is, posted about in
so many strange places. I put P.P.
to bed at five now usually - he seldom
naps in the day. I want to hear that
Mayo is better than when you wrote -
you said he was feverish & ailing.
Percie has played more with "Pony" yesterday
& today than ever before in his life - disposes
him in a proper position, on Pelion, now
and then. I do want a nice letter
from Charles & Albina - & mean to
write particularly to them soon - all
the letters are to them too, but it seems
more natural to direct my speech to
those I have seen last and who write
oftenest to me - Emmy did write a
nice letter to our brother & Albi,
In consequence of his crying! goodbye dele

Lucy
5 May 14 1855

Bangor May 14 - 1855.

My dear Brother

I have been naughty not to write to you before, since I have a letter came, but I knew I saw wrote last week, so I thought you would not care so much. It seems so odd to have them at Eliza's instead of here, but we have seen them about every day so far. What a splendid specimen of health & manliness little Mayo is! I wish I could learn Kerrie not to be such a clinger to "Mamma" - He is never really happy but a few moments at a time, even out doors, unless "mamma" will "drop floor" with him and keep by his side. To get down anywhere at any time, on the floor in the house, or on the ground, is "drop floor". It seems as if he could not be weaned from me. Even out doors with Eliza.

Many [illegible] in yr letter

and Mays, if I am not there too,
he must come in every few minutes
and stand & look at me a little &
then out again. If I am out of sight
a moment, when he is ever so busy
at play, it is "Mamma away, mamma
away, away, away". Lizzie's being
here will be a capital thing for her.
I turn him over to her care a good
deal & he is learning to love her very
much.
15 – When I had got so far I saw
Nettie & Mays came – Nettie says
she wrote a long letter to you where
she said everything, so that I
[illegible] not write at present, but
as I had begun, thought I might
as well finish – I have not been
very well for a little past – distress
through my chest, right side,
back & shoulder, [illegible] – much
increased by swallowing. Sabbath
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] – [illegible]
came in the evening – said he [illegible]

[illegible] much dizziness & pain. [illegible] inflammation of pleura and lungs. I felt worse than any [illegible] as when sick at Hampden. He left me medicine, recommended hot foot baths, mustard poultice on the side & another poultice the second day. I feel almost well today — think some of going shopping & taking my physic after I come back. Lizzie is out on the sidewalk with Pessie. I am going to see about a bonnet for Almedea; getting Lizzie's fixed over. &c. Hattie has had a fresh installment of ornaments from Easthampton — as many more minerals, shells, images & pretty things as she had before, [illegible] says — I have not seen them. Her bonnet & Gertie's hat are come from N. York city. Hattie has got also a coral necklace (& armlets to match) with a gold clasp & little locket, marked "G. E. M." for Gertie. We think such arrangements are

tooth powder, but please don't
buy anything for you [illegible]. It
will do no good, only trouble the [illegible]-
lings. I am [illegible] of the
rose [illegible]
[illegible] if not there are plenty more
here, if I can ever get a chance to
send them.

P.M. Nettie, Mallie & self went
shopping as proposed - accomplished
a fine parcel of business - some
for Almeda's bonnet, &c. Nettie is up
here this afternoon - Jennie setting
out currant bushes, Henry & [illegible]
running about in the yard, Lizzie
gone up to the grove with [illegible]
Page, Ellen down town. I thank
you much for the book [illegible] using
it faithfully - [illegible]
with great care

Uff - [illegible]

Mr. [illegible] died a few days since
little [illegible] than a year since his wife
died - [illegible] [illegible] you [illegible]

35

[illegible] July 4th 1875.

[illegible] if and you think I have been rather remiss about writing lately, but there has not seemed to be anything to write. Isaac and I have been gardening more or less every day. By his kind assistance, my posey garden thrives wonderfully. I take ever so much comfort working out there & I believe grow strong daily. Henri is out as much as half the time when it is pleasant, the chickens are growing delightfully, and today as well as the other, falling like fine down — he lives very easy. He is the King to [illegible] things, though he is body is quite equal to Grammar yet. Lizzie is more womanly than when here before, & of course has grown enough to make some dif-

degree, having been badly
sick with cold and cankered
mouth (as Jennie was last winter
only worse) for about a week - is
getting better now. Gertie is a little
mite of a thing - only think - nine
months old in a day or two, wears
long white dresses, & does not
begin to sit alone yet. She seems
smart to jump & fly round in
one's lap, but she has great del-
icacy of organization - is very
narrow across the shoulders.
Jennie is not very smart - has a
great many & piping feelings - tho'
she keeps round, & wouldn't like
to have one say she was not well
as anybody, so you must not say
anything when you write. She
don't like to have anything said
because I tell her I know
her present feelings are owing
to imprudence last fall. She and
mother have gone, I suppose, to

hear Mrs. Johnson lecture to ladies on health this afternoon - this is the second course of seven lectures - said to be worth everybody's hearing. We have got a beautiful silk bonnet making for Almeda. I have covered the lounge self alone today & am slightly weary. Am very much better than when you went away. After you went away I devoted myself to doing nothing, only to read or write when I felt like it & occasionally to do a little work, for two or three weeks. Whether this benefited me or whether being out doors a good deal, or taking considerable current wine, or the mucilage of the root you sent, I know not - perhaps all combined. By the way, Isaac said I must prepare & take the root while green without fail, so I fixed all of it - equal to some hundred dozen white

a d[illegible]! [illegible] with
[illegible] it, and [illegible] doing
upon [illegible] with [illegible] diligence,
(so much in former time [illegible]
and consequently not flattering,
agreeable,) but some [illegible] spoiled
before [illegible] use it [illegible]
[illegible] I used [illegible]
[illegible] Letters
from [illegible] gratifying, [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] Bell [illegible] the [illegible]
Theodore [illegible] 100 [illegible]
[illegible] spring. You ask what
[illegible] you can make [illegible]
[illegible]. I don't see any thing but
[illegible] ready, at least till [illegible]
in [illegible] here. [illegible] here
[illegible] days [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] you [illegible]
[illegible] "[illegible]", [illegible]
(only not a [illegible] handsome [illegible]) [illegible]
[illegible] spring. [illegible]
[illegible]

Geneva May 1855
Dear Mother

As Nellie says, "I fully intended", and have done so almost every mail since they came from Phila, yet I believe you have not had so many letters as usual from me — When there are so many of us here, there is more going on — particularly shopping, particularly now. Nellie had a good many things to get, & our spring fixings, though we have not done much at fixing this year. I am very well for me & growing "weller". Samuel has not been quite well for a few days — I feel almost as if I never ought not to go west without you going to Elgin, yet I am afraid to have you go to stay through the hot weather. The Doct seems deter-mined not to give it up but that I am going. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

than it would be quite expensive this
year on account of expense — besides
Saml wants to go as much as I,
to Brunswick, too, and I think he'd be
better want to go with him. Then
if he should be sick and I away —
I am sorry — because in regard to
Anne, health & everything, I am
well satisfied to go this year, In re-
gard to yourself, I do not know
what is best, I am sure — It is
for you to decide whether to go
immediately with Louisa or wait
until I go in the fall. We will do any
thing as you prefer. The Irish matter
will be speedily attended to, I cannot
contrive any way for us all to go to Phila
together without incurring much addit-
ional expense, as I have not got by
stage, besides the following consid-
erations, for your welfare, either or
many people's babies. Elisha & Annie
had better go early together in a chaise
when they get ready, & if we can, the last of
summer, Saml & I will go — In haste,
with much love — Lucy

1:13

Bangor June 23rd 185[illegible].

Dear [illegible]

I imagine you will feel somewhat anxious before Monday night to hear of our welfare, but there seems to be no way of sending before that time. Elijah will write Monday, I presume, and tell you what a comfortable ride we had home. Steamer was on the worst time in two so bad, partly in consequence of heavy rains, passing since the [illegible], and partly because of [illegible] the ground was so wet. We got here safe, but very tired. [illegible] seemed [illegible] that no body but [illegible] could do anything for him, but he soon got [illegible] I was obliged to go to bed. He [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and was very good all the [illegible]. He [illegible]

[illegible] quite [illegible] when he first [illegible] first feels [illegible] Grace [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] and [illegible] this morning - hopes
[illegible]
[illegible], startled in his sleep then,
[illegible] it is getting so hard. He has
been out in the garden this morning
and is playing about as usual. I
feel well this morning, with the excep-
tion of being sleepy, tired, lame, and
back-achy! Was it not fortunate that
we had the German [illegible]
afternoon to come home? We found
a letter here for Nellie - [illegible] to
read it, but [illegible]
[illegible]. Only [illegible] Har-
low, [illegible]. Blood
[illegible] in this [illegible]
[illegible]. There are fifteen fully
blown peonies under the window.
The balsams were in fine order
[illegible] here. Our visit at
Nile does not seem to be [illegible]
[illegible] to look back upon -
Fatigue, anxiety and sickness on our
part, and loss of sleep, [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] you all of you.
I [illegible] [illegible] to think of you [illegible],
with your cold from Perri's sleeping
you uncovered, & then to [illegible]
without sleep all night. I hope
you all went to bed after we came
away - particularly [illegible]
[illegible]. Perri had no trouble
with his [illegible] on the way down,
and so little now, that unless it
increases, I shall not think
[illegible] to [illegible] it. I feel very
to think we are likely to get along
without a doctor. We will see to
the things and try to send them up
the first of the week - I got a
letter from Samuel on the way
home - the driver had it in his
[illegible] & thought best not to keep
[illegible]! [illegible] & [illegible] were
pretty glad to see us - If pins can't
be obtained there, had I better [illegible]
any? Please ask [illegible] if
she would like a letter [illegible]

So please write when you get this, for we shall be anxious to hear again.

[illegible] occasional [illegible] symptoms: [illegible] instead [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] general have grown too deafening [illegible]

[illegible] — very nervous & irritable all day, & [illegible] keep him still long enough to get asleep just now. You see I am [illegible] by using this envelope. I guess it will be ready after his nap. [illegible] half an hour

July 14 '55

Bangor July 14 - 1855.

I have been so impressed with the idea of the danger of my dear Mother "growing mischievous in her old age", ~~this~~ for lack of occupation that I cannot forbear sitting down at once to furnish her, at least, with the innocent employment of reading a letter. Really, Mother, what _didos_ do you contemplate _cutting up_, and upon whom are your first pranks to be played? But seriously, I should not imagine that you had lacked _employment_ either for mind or body, for the past few weeks. I have thought of you often, with so many little ones, notwithstanding there were _several_ of you, that you would have your hands full. The people arrived about four o'clock - Mallie did not come in - I am so much, much oblig-ed for the many nice straw-berries,

only I couldn't help worrying all the while & cating them about you poor bended backs in the heat and among the flies. O, they were so nice. I picked a nice boquet of the last roses of summer and sent down to Mattie tonight, with such other flowers as the garden affords. O, Mother I wish you could see our garden—it never looked half so well before. In my department there is hardly a weed, big or little to be found. I do "dig about and dung" things unweariedly and they reward me for my pains. We have got a gutter put up by the shed, the ground enriched, and tonight Samuel and I put out the grape vines—There were seven or eight fine sprouts. My "Queen of the prairie" that I thot so much of, proves to be a "Baltimore Belle"—a very delicate and handsome rose, but not so high a runner nor so rich a rose as the other.

My damask rose tree came from [illegible] is as [illegible] as ever. I think if you put a plenty of charcoal round the roots, you will see them [illegible] another year. I went down into Mr. Orff's garden a day or two since. They have some superbly handsome flowers, particularly roses — a "Prince Albert", which is very beautiful — Mrs. Harlow has a "[illegible] Joseph" rose in bloom, which is the handsomest thing in the shape of a flower that I ever saw, I think. The queer names amuse me, as doubtless they will you. Mrs. Harlow bends her back in her garden about the whole of every forenoon, rain or shine, unless it rains or shines very powerfully. Mary is away & Sarah helps not much. There is considerable said about Mr. Lee's lectures — an agent for the Am. For. and Chris. Union — I think I wrote [illegible] you about him — he is said to be an unusually fine speaker — I have no

heard him. The Catholics dislike him so much. I think people must have been "pretty good stuff" to go to [illegible] and stay from eight till four. Were they alive next day?

Wednesday - Feb. 16. I did hear Mr. Lee yesterday and must say I never yet heard so eloquent a speaker as [illegible] him - he seems to be a very good man too. The Catholics are quite excited about him - some go to hear him. Ellen started one night, but [illegible] some of her Irish friends have told her all manner of [illegible] about him [illegible] that he was a monster of wickedness, [illegible] she turned about again. I ought to answer Hetti's letter, but [illegible] tell me [illegible] in his last letter if he [illegible] he would not be back for a month - Perrin is so much better that I query if it is best to give him the beech leaf tea now. His [illegible] speedily. Don't trouble your mind about the waist fitting Hettie - I did it very easily indeed from an old one, though I never could fit a new waist. Now I should like to

[illegible]
June 26 1855

Bangor July 26 - 1855=

Dear Mother

We have been expecting a letter from some of you for some days but I believe I will not wait for it any longer. Ellen Brown came here yesterday P.M. She did intend to go to Bucksport that night, but the stage left her, so she waited till this morning. She said you had returned to [illegible]. I can't really tell how long you were at Brownville, but it seems to me not so long as expected. We are just through Commencement - it came a month earlier than usual so as to give the students who wish it, time to teach. Rev. Henry White, Rev. Mr. Perry from Blanchard and Rev. Mr. Perkins from Phillipston, Mass. were sent here to bed and board. Mr. Perkins did not know who I was till in conversation he discovered that [illegible]

was my native place, then inquired my name & seemed ever so glad to see me, though we knew nothing at all of each other. He is a great brown-faced, hard-featured, sort o' lazy acting man, but improved upon acquaintance. Unusually interesting in fancy, phrenological, one of Dr. Sewall's. Seemed to understand to the bottom every subject we touched upon. He happened to be at Orono visiting his wife's friends & so came down with them to Commencement. His wife died last fall - he has one little boy of two years, now at his father's.

Lizzie said Albina wanted to keep those knives, but you know it would spoil my set and I had rather keep them. If she wants some, I can get them for her, but you know her keeping those would leave me four odd ones.

Mr. J. P. Thompson's Lecture before the Rhetorical Society Tuesday evening, was the most perfectly good that I have heard for long. His subject

the comparative value to mankind of civilization and Christianity. You know he is pastor of the Tabernacle Church and one of the editors of the Independent. A plain common sense man with a great live heart, living in the world and having an intimate knowledge of everything that is going on in all countries, and a broad deep sympathy with mankind and an interest in all the great movements of the day. It does stir one up so to hear such a man once in a while - plain spoken & simply dressed - a black cravat & brown coat, (dispensing with clerical black) and altogether eschewing the "Stunning of words". Mattie & Lottie are doing finely - Lottie was sick a few days. I expect to have Lizzy's Cousin, quite of an unmentionable age, when Ellen goes away. If you have stocking yarn for Ellen please send it soon, as she may go in two or three weeks, but don't trouble about it, as she can buy here.

I had a nice letter from [illegible] a few days since, but none from Anna for a long time - It seems as if I had many things to say, but Lizzie is not very well today & Nancy [illegible] is here talking to her [illegible] about [illegible] time too. Lizzie always tells his name "J. H. [illegible]" He [illegible] [illegible] "[illegible] full and Joe is in general" fine spirits. He will play with a handful of flowers, pulling off the leaves and placing them in various heaps and positions, two hours at a time without hardly speaking at all. Sam'l has come. good bye.

Daughter Lucy.

Bangor Aug. 16 - 1855 -

Dear People, all

Hastily, as usual, I snatch a few moments to write to you - I feel so confused and hurried that I hardly know where to begin.

First, you know Mr. & Mrs. Packard are here - just as good as can be, all one brother and sister (Mrs. P. reminds me continually of Josephine) — our sort of company, you know - Then the day last week Mr. Temple called and of course I must invite him & his spouse to tea, which I did for Tues. evening last, and thinking to follow Madam Harlow's good example & save cake, I invited also Messrs. Dennett & Wells with their wives, which I have long intended to do - just after they were invited, (though Mrs. Dennett was at Milo & could not come) Mr. Temple came in to the store saying he should not be able to come till Thursday, so nobody was benefited by all my labors in the way of custard, jelly, cake &c., but Mr. & Mrs. Wells - however, we enjoyed their visit much & have got to have it over again for Mr. Temple. Mr. T. coaxed us into buying his father's Memoirs - very excellent I presume, still we should not have got the book just now without an invitation - the

Percie has a little kitten - I tell him not to hurt her - he says "no I won't hurt Kitty" He says every thing only not distinctly - tell James Lizzie has a "Kitty" - begun to fight! -

good man's countenance is worth the price of
the book almost – Well, all this fussing, together
with "eighty" of callers on Mr. & Mrs. Packard, while
I am longing to be with Marian all the time – poor
girl, she has had a very hard time, though I hope
the worst is over – She was quite sick two or three
days with dysentery, occasioned chiefly by ex-
citement talking with Mary, who is slightly apt
to "get cold", Gertie has been ailing all along –
and Monday was taken worse – Tuesday was in a
stupid state all day – at night they were much
alarmed – feared congestion of the brain – but
I think it was weakness & exhaustion – & that
the long sleep & lethargy was the crisis – I went
down early Wednes. morn, stayed all the forenoon
found her looking better than I expected, though
very sick – While I was there, she slept a long sweet
sleep, with closed eyes, her flesh grew warmer &
her skin moist and she continues to improve.
If her diarrhea does not return, I think she
will get over it – She is very poor, most as bad as
Percie was last summer – She is a little <u>frail</u>
thing – takes cold so easily. They were going to tel-
egraph to Annie, but concluded not to – she is com-
ing this fall – I guess they know how much a
troubled woman – she is as good as possible now,
but I don't know as I could get along with such
a creature in the house. Ellen is so good – She

more company, & I care & the more there is to do, the
prouder she grows – but this will couldn't help it,
when I am always good and pleasant to her, &
I think rather her & let her keep one convenient place
enough to please her – I am sad to think of her
going away. Well, I am now through your Wednes-
day immediately after I returned from [illegible] the
evening to tell it about two days before a
hack stopped at the door, and therefrom emerged
two of Samuel's Cousins from [illegible] Mass.
James and Mary Sykes – he 22 years old – a
smart, fine and able [illegible] – bookkeeper at New-
comb's, Corn & flour dealer, State St. Boston, & she
a very pretty girl of seventeen – with a round
smiling face, pretty brown hair, with an a-
bundance of natural ringlets, all over her
head and shoulders. They are very easy & at
home, so we get on nicely – don't know how long they
will stay – suppose three or four days. I thought
we were to have no company this summer, as you
may suppose. I don't do much but keep things
straight. Mr. P. M. is appointed to go on a visit
to Old Town – I don't know whether I shall go my-
self or resign in favor of Lizzie, and take the
time to recruit myself. Lizzie was not very
well for a few days, but at Mrs. Richard's insti-
gation, I cured her with raspberry leaf tea.
Mr. & Mrs. P. are both in feeble health – Mrs. P.

suffers constantly with pain in his side - liver complaint - He has not been with his people since last Apr. and grows worse instead of better - particularly for the past few days - If he is not better soon, he will not be able to finish his engagement here for the Episcopal - I think they both feel rather blue at times - He is a very smart man - He lets me read his sermons - everybody says so, She has had a very sad life - full of trials and deep afflictions, - loss of friends and everything, almost. O, how many flowers I do have - wish I could supply you all - wish you could see the superbness & perfection of my scarlet verbena - Fuchsia all in bloom in the garden - a very handsome variety, red, with a rich purple middle - I don't find much time to admire them just now. "Jack in the Bishop's bush" of Isabella's memory, comes finely - Mrs. [illegible] calls it "Jack in a puzzle". Dear Mother your long desired shells for you shall be attended to if I can possibly compass it, G. is away from the store considerable of time, if such a thing is possible, buying them over, first at Searsport, then Oldtown, then Stillwater, besides attending to the store, has loaded one vessel with lumber to go to Fayal and is now loading another for Malaga - means to try to get rid of it. Well, my time is more than out - do write them - heard a letter from [illegible] in [illegible] judge, crying [illegible]

Bangor Aug 17th 1855

Folks at Milo

I send Isaac to day by Mr Bradeen a letter from Bangor via Ill, Minnesota & Bangor. at our house all well as usual, Lizzy, very tired as usual when we have Company Cousin Jat Sykes & Sister are here for a few days from Newton Mass, Mr Packards health needs doctoring we all went to Old Town yesterday Mollie & Gertie are both yet sick. G has been very sick her head was supposed to be effected. is now appearantly better, Mollie has not been well for 2 or 3 weeks, some of the time quite sick, dysentery and Excitement, hope she will improve as Gertie gets better,

In a hurry J. Wm Furber

I want Isaac to look at Uncle Marks Colt and see what it is worth

Aug 17 55

Answered

Bangor Aug. 30 1855

Dear Mother & all the people

It is three o'clock P.M. I thought this morning that I would sit right down and sew all day, but I went into the garden to pick some corn to send to Eliah's by Lizzie, and somehow I did not get in again till ten o'clock - what with trimming tomato vines, tying up things that the wind had blown down, gathering divers sorts of seeds, picking a boquet & watering plants, I was busy fussing all the while, with a little happy chattering body at my side. Well when I got in, there were my seeds to do up & label, pepper grass seed to rub out & winnow, nastur[t]ions to pickle (picked yester & day before) - when those were fixed, I remembered that my tumblers of jelly had not been tied up, so the papers must be cut & that attended to, then the wind

[illegible]

was throwing the crab apples all off the tree, so I sent Ellen to pick them & I went to work & preserved them - Last of all Rosie's sun bonnet was starched & getting too dry, so it was necessary for me to iron that, as Ellen never does such things - Now I am settled & washed & combed & dressed, ready to finish out the day writing, without perhaps touching my sewing; which by the way, is getting sadly behind these few weeks since I have had so many other things to attend to. Day before yesterday I picked about 3/4 of the nasturtiums - (had a ten quart pan full in all - want to send you a bottle!) Yesterday I finished picking those, cut all the sage - another pan full - picked beans & corn for dinner, nipped off every end of all the squash vines to keep them within bounds & let the fruit ripen cut all the squash & turnip leaves which I wished the squashes had too much, finished & turn-

work for Annie, put out my small
bulb bulbs, broke the handle of my
trowel digging in the "dirt of the ert",
and rode down to Maria's when Sam'l
went from dinner - we took Perin & G.
carried him to the store & kept him
till after 5 o'clock, good as a puss.
Lizzie stays at Maria's lately - she
has a real hard time - was sick abo
two days - Mond & Tues. Dr. Payne
said she had a fever, but yesterday
she was up all day tending baby,
sewing &c. Sammie has been unable
to be at the store all the week - an at-
tack of dysentery - they had the doctor
for him yesterday - he has had it
slightly for several weeks - Gertie
is better - hungry as Perin was last
fall - Monday morning, when Maria
found she could not get up, Elijah tel-
egraphed for Hattie - they expect her
this week - I shall feel greatly re-
lieved when she comes.

Just after you started Friday, did

Mrs. Wingate came in to spend the day, to [illegible] my discomfort, though being [illegible] to Samuel, I must not say nothing. She is seventy two yrs old, & as you are aware, fat. However, I took nice care of her all day - she slept two hours diligently, and [illegible], on my bed. About five o'clock, to my surprise & consternation, Mr. & Mrs. Temple made their appearance, after all the custards were eaten up you know! Mr. T. & wife went to Mrs. Blood's to tea. Howsomdever we got on splendidly. Mrs. T. is homely & clever - rather interesting. Sabbath forenoon Mr. Packard preached a good sermon on foreknowledge - In the afternoon I borrowed it & wrote it off, leaving him none the wiser. Tues. morn. they went away. Mr. P.'s side feels much better, but the pain has gone more to his chest - he sweats very much in the night - I don't think his symptoms very encouraging. Did you have any great frost night - we covered every thing we could & in the morning the sidewalk was white, but nothing injured in the garden - Our tomatoes are turning red - they are [illegible] [illegible]. How many [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] - It is too bad that they [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. None but [illegible]

[illegible] grew stiff & he very little. Sweet corn is large enough [illegible] [illegible]

Tuesday [illegible] 13
'77

Dear Mother

James & [illegible] did not go this morning as I supposed they would when I wrote a few hasty words last night. Now it is half past 9 — Sam'l has just come & brought no letters from you all, whereat we are some disappointed, wanting much to hear from you. The 2nd operation is all over & Mr. Rider is nicely comfortable. Feels better than either time before. Sam'l and Elijah both went to the Dr's with him — Elijah saw the whole operation, so did James — Sam'l went into another room — he is easily overcome at such a time. The doctor was two minutes with his knives, & ten before it was all done up. Gertie seems — well, I was going to say a little better, but can only say she is certainly no worse, and the Dr. says that is enough to encourage us a good deal she was so very low yesterday. He is giving Cod liver oil — the only thing he knew of that could help her, as she is so low he dares not give her any active medicine. They rub her also in the oil; as he says she may be much strengthened in that way. We just about gave her up yesterday. I never saw so pitiful looking a child. I wrote to Anna today, telling the news — We feel so relieved now Mr. R. is through — stays in his chamber — Maria is not going to see him at all — she is so worn down, we think it might trouble her too much. He does not look near so badly as before — good night

great love to Nettie & all —

Lucy

Do be careful of all your dear selves, particularly the Mother of us all.

Sept 15. 1855

Bangor Sept. 15 - 1855.

Dear Mother & people

Your letter came to hand this evening - I have just finished reading it. Will, with alacrity, obtain and forward the articles desired as soon as I can, but when that will be, I am unaware. You will please bear in mind that we have no horse, that I have no Lizzie to assist in the care of Percie, that Marie is and is likely to be disabled from duty for a long time to come, that our house is at present considered a hospital & that my bones are often weary, - but in process of time we will hope to accomplish whatever is desired. In regard to making the dress, nothing would give me greater [illegible] [illegible] sewing & excepting, it might be, to make similar articles for a pair of twins for myself - ! than to fit out [illegible]

[illegible] love [illegible] & Emily love [illegible] in the [illegible] Lord of all [illegible] [illegible]

beautiful & twinly garments for the darlings that I want so much to see, but as it is, am afraid that I cannot consistently do it – If it is best can undoubtedly get Ann Page to do some sewing – she's very nice, you know. I wrote two bits of letters & sent by Lizzie, with some little shirts, a kerchief which you left here, and Albine's tin coffee which I sent once before & Mallie brought back. It seems she forgot to hand them to you. We are having queer times now-a-days. I have hardly had any time to sew since Commencement – Mallie feels dreadfully to be here just now, but we all get along famously. Ellen is a perfect treasure, interested for everybody & willing to help everybody. Maria's girl is going to be married soon & is awful fractious & cross so she & I have got to hunt up new girls very soon. It is wonderful how comfortably Mr. R. gets along – has had scarcely any pain & sleeps well every night – Hedro

not look nor feel near so bad as Lucy fail. Lutie, we hope is a little better. she is very troublesome — I do think more & more of Dr. McKeen — he does not seem to glory a bit — I liked much his feelings in regard to performing surgical operations — It did not seem to me that Lutie could live through another day, without help, when she came up here Wednesday morning.

16 — Sabbath day — It came ten o'clock last night & I left writing, but fearing you will be troubled if you do not get a letter by tomorrow's mail, I'll finish it today. The Drs. McKeen & Field have just left — have taken the pins from Lutie's face & expressed much delight at the appearance there of. He thinks Lutie is improving a little, but says she is by no means out of danger. She moans & cries for food almost continually, & still continues to convulse, which is the most unfavorable symptom — there are others favorable. She ins[illegible]

be carried about almost all the time.
I mean it is poor child. For the yarn
we are very thankful, but afraid it was
too hard for you to spin it. Marie took
what was sent. If any more is spun
for Ellen try Mrs. Sargent or otherwise,
if some of you or Mrs. S. are coloring
with bark, please dip it in. She
would prefer it colored. She is so good
I would like to gratify her if conve-
nient, but of course make yourselves
no trouble. I send the seed & all the
tomatoes that have yet ripened on our
vines — still just think in season
we should have got more from Lou-
[illegible] — Lulie was getting along finely
as they thought (though she kept having
ups & downs) till a week ago to-day
[illegible] took her to the little settlement
with her little quick fingers, she stole
a kernel of corn from his plate & before
they could get it, it was down her throat.
She immediately began to grow worse,
whether from that cause or some other,
(the sudden change in the weather) they

Dear Martha

It is just nine & I write in great haste a few words. Lizzie can tell you more than I can write. I will only say that Eliza, Mattie and Hattie are here with poor little Sallie. They came this morning because the air is so much better here than there. They just sent for Dr. McRee this morning - they felt as if she could not live much longer without some change - She is very low indeed, much sicker than Vinnie was, and so weak! You know she has not the strength to begin with that he had. The Dr. gives no encouragement. He said he knew of but one thing that could help her, & he had little hope of that - cod liver oil - she was too far gone for chalk mixture. You can't think what a miserable looking little thing she is. How joy & sorrow pass to-gether in this world - Many congratulations to Lucius & Nettie for their

late acquaintance. I should hardly think Greene's skin would hold him any way — I went to look at all of them — particularly Huffpin and Buffpin. When will they name them, and what will they do with them?

Samuel has just come — he is tired — it is late & I must stop — don't know what we shall do without Lizzie. Do write when you can snatch time — I shall go west to hear everything — Good night all — do be careful of yourself and yourselves.

Aff Lucy.

[illegible]
[illegible]

Recd
[illegible] 15 1855

Bangor Sept. 18 – 1855

Dear Mother

By rare good luck, I had an opportunity to go down town yesterday P.M. so I made haste & got some or all of the articles Nellie wished to send with the [illegible] &c. The cambric for slip I will keep here and if you say so, will get Ann Page to make it – I can cut it out & fix the points, so that it will be properly done – The blue dresses I would have kept, hoping bye & bye I might find time to make them, only I did not know the size &c. The calico Maria told me was got at Stone's, so I easily found it, but he asked 8 for the drab instead of 6 as you wrote.

Calico, 1½	19
" "	12
Cambric, 1¾ yds	53
4 yds [illegible], 47	1,88
Saddler's silk	24 – $2,96

[illegible]

The other things Samuel is to attend to today. A carpenter is here today making a dove chamber. The birdies are expected by express tomorrow. Eliab & Mallie were sadly frightened & troubled about Gertie yesterday, but when the Dr. came in the evening, he said he could see no change in her ~~went~~ up stairs again to examine her & comfort Mallie when just ready to go out - said he should not be surprised any morning to hear that she was dead, she was so very feeble, that any sudden change would not be surprising, but that he thought her no worse, & from her keeping along without sinking lower, he had hope that she would recover, This morning she seemed a little brighter & we all feel easier about her, though only Mallie & Eliab were alarmed yesterday - Very sick children will look differently at different times you

know — When he came in, we told him that they feared she was worse & he went up stairs with some anxiety on his face, so Mallie was confirmed in her opinion that she was worse by the Dr's long face — I told him how she felt — he laughed a little & said he wished people would attend to what he said & not to the way his face looked, as he tried to tell just what he thought. She cannot bear the oil — her bowels are so weak, so they rub in just as much as they can on her back & bowels — the Dr. says that will give her a little strength. She cannot bear milk & takes chiefly barley broth. Dr. Mc. says she must have milk — nothing else so good for a child — but every time she takes it it seems to hurt her. Mr. Kidder is doing wonderfully well — his face is almost healed — he is quite delighted about it. Don't you believe I want to go to drive to-day as much as ever

I did in my life? — Well I must be done & send this down by Mr. Macklin to go with the other things. I am going to get a little cap for Penie (that's been the going in) shall I get one like it for Mangie? How does the poor little fellow feel nowadays? You don't say a word about him. Does he feel as if his chance is about gone? I want to see the boys — Eliah found out Sunday that Mary (the girl) had been drinking Sunday brandy, Madeira, & currant wine bottles, which very likely occasioned her cross spells — he sent her off, bag & baggage, without waiting for Monday! They have shut up house, till baby is well enough to go back & they get another girl — Goodbye

Aff. Lulu

When is Mother going to Elyria, & who is going with her?

Dear People

I suppose you will ask Almeda all sorts of questions about every thing & she will answer them in full, so there is little need for me to write, only to tell Nettie about the dress for Marge. We think it is darling pretty - If you want another dress of it, please let me know soon, as it may be gone - It is 5/6 per yd - I did not quite know how much to get, but thought two yds for dress & drawers would be right - I have got enough thibet like Jessie's Zisar winter best dress for her for drawers, & mean to get along with the two dresses. I am making some plain unbleached cotton flannel drawers to put on under his white ones till 'tis time to put on woolen ones. Almeda will tell you what a lively busy we hospital keepers are in here nowadays - but 'tis all nothing

eatables sent by McAmos. Samuel was
up river & down river a good deal
this week - has four or five people
(two companies) to keep up the running,
about logs & timber - hates it terr-
ibly, but says there is no other way -
Shall we not be glad when the timber
is fairly out of the way, if it keeps
in any shape as our prosperity, is
very likely in many. I won't grumble
a word. I wonder, how with so many
vexations & cares & troubles all the time,
Samuel can always be the same
kind, considerate, good natured
man - never speaking a hasty word,
nor forgetting to be kind to us all.
"Gus", won't you make calculations to
stop here & have the children christened?
& would the Cumberland grand parents
be pleased? 'Tis a pity you had not
written me much sooner, then all the
things could have gone up so nicely with
the children - You can't think how
good it seems about Mr. Vickers' [illegible]

Jane will not be disfigured near so much as I feared - Dr. Mc. told it - medea & he might be quite proud of his books by & by! He said there was real pleasure to a surgeon in performing an operation so far as professional feeling was concerned - a consciousness of skill & ability to do it properly & well, & that this consciousness of knowing just what one was doing & wanting to do, gave the requisite <u>nerve</u> to go through with it, but as for there being any pleasure in the <u>cutting</u>, as some said, no, no, no, with much emphasis - He said he could perform an operation on an adult without distress to himself, but he went to such a work on a <u>child</u> as he would go to a <u>whipping</u> post - with shrinking & real distress. The other day in asking a blessing Samuel said kingdom - as soon as he got through, Jennie said to me, "Faver said kingdom & didn't say power". Yesterday I was singing to him - he would

kitty crying – I told him she could –
he said "Kitty ain't big enough". He
often calls me "Cousin Esther". Last night
I put him in his crib just at dark,
had just heard a rush & noise from him &
in a little more than an hour went in to
see if he was covered up – as soon as I
opened the door, he exclaimed in great
glee "Kitty an [illegible] [illegible]
bed" – and there he was, head [illegible]
all over the bed in the darkness & there
curled down, cold as a frog, on the back
side with the kitten, I did not know
she was in there & thought he was asleep
all the while. He was just as full of life
as he could hold, his round eyes shining
with glee. I put kitty out, covered
him again in his crib & went out – he
made never a word of complaint, kissed me
& said good night over again & went to
sleep. His bowels are in a better state than
ever before since his sickness. He runs all
over the yard & garden very nicely [illegible]
ing any plant without leave. He is a great
favourite [illegible] [illegible] of you – & we will try to
do the same. My condolences & congrat-
ulations to Nellie. I can't [illegible] I am
worried for [illegible] won't come here & will
feel [illegible] – there is the little bedroom [illegible]

if the darling Gertie only gets well, as we have hope now that she will. The combine is here waiting your orders in regard to the coloring - I may find time by & by to do it, but am at present closely driven with sewing, getting little time to work. Can you tell how much I want to see the little boys. We rode down to Mrs. Crosby's yesterday to see if we could get Nancy Piper when Ellen goes away - could not - they were so astonished & delighted about the twins. Samuel says he shall have to go to Ohio by & by - tis barely possible that I may go too, though not very likely. Will you please write me mother, how to color with copperas - I have forgotten - Ellen can color the yarn so if tis not convenient to do it then - Well good night - do write to us often, & I hope you will always have good news to write - don't get too tired mother - you will & do, I know - take care of her Jessie - with much love, aff - Lucy -

Sept 1855

could not tell but they think that
she passed the kernel of corn yes-
terday in a partially digested state, &
I think that Dr. Payne's medicine
never could have occasioned the dif-
ficulty, but that the cod liver oil
gave her strength to eject from [illegible]
[illegible] much vile stuff, whereby they
were swollen & puffed out hard as
a rock & which nothing else had
in the least affected. Hattie Ely is ail-
ing & has been several days with dys-
entery & then sister Mary is quite sick
with fever at Binghampton, N. York.
It is vexing that they could not find my
letters, or you, though there was little
in them. Can Nettie tell where she got
her calico for double gown, so I can
tell where to look for it. I never saw
either piece before, & don't know at
what place it was bought — 'tis rather of
doubtful if it can be matched now
I think. We will endeavor to [illegible] the

as Hattie says [illegible] done over lightly. I had no idea of writing so much - I [illegible] after [illegible] [illegible] Much love Affly Lucy

Luce Oct. 55

Dear Mother

Mallie has just been writing, and has left her envelope open for me, so I'll try to write a little, though I have nothing especial to say.

The dear ones Eliab & Marie, are in great sadness - They seem to have given up hope for Lillie, and truly there does not seem to be much chance for hope. I suppose Mallie has told you of her fears - It seems strange that she should hold out so long, remaining just about so, if she is not going to be better. She is a little delicate thing, and so small, I suppose there cannot be so much chance for her as for a child of larger physical development. It seems as if Eliab & Mallie & Hattie too, must get entirely worn out - She has to be carried a great deal - seems to have some difficulty of breathing at times,

nothing so would have been to have spared Lizzie last summer, to what it would be now.

so that it distresses her to lie down.
I can but feel anxious about Maria.
She has had a very hard time, but she
seems very well indeed considering all
her fatigue &c. Isn't it very sad
about Mr. Rider? Poor Almeda - I
do think she is to be pitied most. It
seems a very dark prospect before
them, and how nobly they both bear
their affliction. I expect Ellen will
go very soon now, possibly in a week,
though probably not for three weeks.
How we shall miss her - we have no
other girl engaged yet. Nettie did
not tell me what kind, or how ex-
pensive material to get for the twin
caps. Will she please tell me also whether plain white silk, or figured.
if she would like for Mayo a drab
cap just like Percie's - there was one
more in the shop precisely like his,
if it is not gone. Don't you all like
Mayo's dress? Hattie has given me
gingham enough for Percie two aprons,
a very small green & white plaid &

a brown & white similar to it. How I want to see you all manœuvering with the pair. Do they always both go to sleep at the same time? Do they ever both cry at once? O, I forgot! Isaac says they don't cry at all! Do make haste along here with them. I can't imagine how you are ever going to get to Dumbarton or any where else with them, unless you box them up after the fashion of our doves when they journeyed hither. Perrin yesterday spread a handkerchief over his dipper on the floor & then went peeping round on all sides of it, making believe he very ignorant, saying, "I wonner what's in that dipper". One day he had just begun drinking when his father began to ask a blessing - he could'nt bear to let go, but kept trying to get the tumbler down to the table so as to fold his hands; when Samuel surprised him by getting through - then he scrambled and put down the tumbler, fold-

ed his hands and cried out in great distress, "Father say, thar ailin, Father say, thar ailin!" We have just got our Cow home after being away, five milkings - she was in pound, 1.75 to pay, but we couldn't discover who put her in - she is a very peaceable creature, and if in mischief, I suspect followed some other cow - milked only once while away. It is late now. I wish I could send you one of our good squashes. The glory of the flower garden has departed, though many things are bright yet - with very much love to all - good night.

Lucy.

Do write to Eliab & Frances. It is little my earthly friends can comfort them & for my own part, I feel that I may not intermeddle with their grief, but I cannot help sympathizing, having never had their experience, yet I have been very near it. But how little a human

Oct 16 55

Bangor Oct. 16. 1855

Dear Brother

We arrived at home about 5 o'clock after a tedious ride — we stopt just an hour or more at Corinth — the travelling was bad, the horse very (or rather) lazy, the air extremely chilly & uncomfortable, Percy sleepy (I carried him most of the way because I could keep him warmer) and Sammie very sad & unsocial. The wind blew so that I could not keep warm & I got some cold. Percie has a very bad cold yet — coughs nearly all the night — the weather you know, has been unfavorable ever since we returned. You will think I am a great complainer, but I hope to feel better by & by — You know I had not a mouthful of food cooked in the house when we got home — our

girl can not come till tomorrow, and I have found sixteen hard times to get along. When we got here, I held Rennie all wrapped up till Sam'l made a fire & milked the cow, then gave him his supper & put him to bed, and laid on the lounge while Sam'l borrowed bread and got supper. It began to rain just before we got home, & rained so hard that they could not send up [illegible] from Elijah's, as they intended till next day. Yesterday, because all the tomatoes were spoiling, I made preserves & ketchup, and feel about done over today - but have nothing to do but rest. as Thallie is going to send up our dinner, and a woman is here washing & cleaning up. - The girl Caroline expected to come yesterday, but couldn't till tomorrow. I am much afraid you were sick, having [illegible] so much in [illegible], while I was there, [illegible]

Sat. morn.

Dear Brethren

I rec'd a bundle from Joseph last night, for which I am much obliged. The bosoms are done, and I sent by Mr. Brown this morning for some starch to do them up, before I knew that Mr. Wiley was going down. I was in a hurry and never thought to tell Don to go to Brown's, but perhaps he will.

I borrowed some thread and had got the shirts most done when yours came. I can finish them today as I do not keep school, & will put them out in Sherburne's field and whiten them till I have a chance to send them down. I thought at first I would keep the rest of the cloth for myself, but it is rather too thick and coarse to answer my purpose, and I will make another pair of shirts for one of you. Tell me if you want them. It took six yds for yours & there are con

[illegible] nice left. I shall want
to get some cloth for myself one
of these days, but have nothing par-
ticular to do now-adays so if you
either of you want any bosoms
collars or anything made, send
them along. I've got a pr of stock-
ings most done. Do either of you
want them? Why don't you profit
by Isaac's advice & walk out
into the country of a Sabbath af-
ternoon and see me? People call
it only three and 1/2 miles from
here to the city. I thought it was
five. What are you going to do
Independence day? If there's nothing
else going on where you want to
go, come up here. I have from 30
to 36 scholars. Some capital
singers. If I can conveniently
I shall send your bosoms by our
student preacher tomorrow, that
is if my starch comes in season
to do them up. Am much oblig-

ed in Joseph for his information concerning the price of salmon herring &c. Pester him if he can't find anything better to write next time. My Wiley is most ready to start - good size Tiney.

Write often to to me -

If you have or can get anything in the world to read do send it along. I have not a single book but Bible & school books.

E. W. Metcalf

Ft. W. Brown

(Per Mr Wiley)

Lucy
June 20 1863

I feel somewhat anxious about Joseph — tho' he has a pretty clear head and at least ~~tol~~ tolerably fair business capacities yet he has not a very retentive memory and he has to much upon him. I want you should say to him that he is exhorted to "lay aside every weight" — instead of which he is adding & adding to his load of care till he has evidently got more than he can bear. Tell him tis wrong he'll be sick or crazy or what is worse neglect his eternal interests — & watch over him and charge him to watch over himself and have what helps he needs at any rate what amount of pelf can ballance health or life and take care of yourself and do write to me more. Nell.

Sept. 8th 1847.

Dear Brethren &c

Rec'd Joseph's letter last night at midnight. Charles was called as witness, some trouble between Webb and Nason — did not get home till midnight. You must not be so hurried Joseph. You will be sick I am afraid.

Isaac will probably send for some of his things here and I will send shirts bosoms &c. then. If he takes these shirts here you must send me more linen to make some for you, musn't you? It seems Moses goes sooner than you expected. Mrs. Wilder died suddenly Monday a shock of numb palsey. Wilder of this town.

Mr. E. F. Metcalf
Bangor

Lucy & Mother
Sep 8 1847

but lots of Ellises Go.

Lucy Anna

Dear Isaac Brother

I can't fix one of Joe's steel pens on to a wrong stick, and he is using the right one, so I have to hold the pen right in my fingers; but I guess I won't any longer. So now I'll begin with the tother one. Isaac, I can tell you something that is very good news to me. I dont know as you will care about it either way.

The "folkses" have sent for me to go to Boston to help Almeida do her work, though I expect I shall see you face to face & tell you about it before you will read this ere epistle. So no more of that now.

"Brother Joe" has wrote or written so much to you that I suppose he has told you all the news. But I believe he has not told you about the "new neighbors". There is Austin & Mellen Nye, & Barnard, Warren, Enoch, Augustus and Edward Ellis. They are trying to learn to navigate I guess, for they are down in the brook paddling about on a raft that they made, every rainy day and half the time beside, most.

Dolly has fatted up at a great rate; Mr. Shaw has offered Charles 20 dollars for her, but he asks 25. (By the time he wants her again he will ask 30, I suppose. There has been a tall freshet here. The water did not quite cover our Intervale, but did Mr. Ellis's. Mother wrote to James and "amongst um" to let little Lucy come here with Martha when she comes back. but they said No. We did not expect they would let her come however. I dont know as Marm told you that Martha Lee and Moses G. are going or rather have gone with Naomi to Charleston Hospital. Is'nt it a pity I could'nt have known they wanted me there this Summer, soon enough to have gone with Martha? What beautiful showers we had the 2nd of June, did'nt we! only the ground was so full of water, that it did not seem to do so much good.

'Cus' why don't you buy ruled paper, it is so much better to write on, and does not cost but a little more than the other.

I went to Sebec to meeting the 14th of May. Mr. Sewall preached.

I expected to start for Boston the 6th of this month, but Mr. True Stubbs had the promise of our waggon to go to Brighton, so I could not.

June 4th We recieved your letter last night. Mr. Everett and Jim Dennett had the waggon. Jim he is going to Boston. [illegible]

way then. I have been ~~aching~~ to write to you as you know I always am to sombody, ~~[illegible]~~ this great while but could think of nothing in the world to write. But I thought Joseph ~~[illegible]~~ knew about the farm best, & he would write that.

But I can tell you about the Posy Patch: it was planted a good while ago and the things have come up nicely. There is a Round bed in the middle with the Peony in it, & then a wide path round that coming out in corners so as to leave it sq.; then east and west of the Peony is a pink root, and in each of the corners made by the path the Foxglove, Mullen Pink, Columbine and Sweet William are put. They are stretching up terrible fast: the rest is divided in Oblong beds, save 2 Square ones & the southern wood is the two south corners & the ~~[illegible]~~ Arons rod in two north ones. I dont know as you will understand how I mean, but you will see if you come home in August.

I wish I was going to be at home when you are, but I suppose I shall not. If I go soon, I guess Ann will come sooner than she at first said so as to be here while you are at home. That is not a very pretty stock. If I had staid at home this summer I should have made you another prettier one. After I get to Boston I will write you tall letters once in a while. Do you like your place now as well as you did the other? What a lovely summer day it is to-day is n't it; though it is hot enough to melt us all. The Peony has got a great bud on it. We sent the bundle by Nat. Hobbs. I ~~[illegible]~~ spose the word or two that I scratched in a great hurry puzzled you more than it did you good, did n't it? Ellen Lee is going to keep school at the mills this summer, and Sears Frost's wife's sister is going to keep our school at the corner.

Mr. Isaac S. Metcalf.
Bangor— Me.

Aunt

~~Ellen~~ June 10th Ellen Lee begins her school to day. Ours began the first Monday of this month. Three of us go to it.

Milo July 18th 1842.

Dear Isaac

We recieved your letter dated July 4th on Thursday the 14th of July. The lines were few and far between I thought. It did not look as [illegible] Isaac's letters to home generally do it seems to me. We [illegible] on the supposition that you were so sleepy that you had but a few thoughts, and doubt not you are a great part of the time now-a-days notwithstanding some of your boasting speeches in time past, with regard to your triumphs over Morpheus. I am afraid you will go without sleep so much that you will always suffer for it, and be a sleepy, dull eyed looking fellow, if you are not one in reality. Why dont you ask Mrs. Cutler to let you have a room down stairs, where the heat would not trouble you so bad. You might use it days, if they do want it nights.

I suppose the folks at Dover [illegible] wanted to see most, were 6 [illegible] Joseph, Eliab and I. We [illegible] expected to see you there. Mr. French and sisters were there from Exeter; Charles fixed two seats into the waggon & went with both horses. Arnold Sargent & Sarah Jamieson were married in the morning by Mr. Foss. Naomi & Theodore went together, in company with us. Mr. Sanborn of [illegible] delivered a [illegible] good Oration, (so they all said) I did not hear the whole of it. [illegible] stood on the roof of a house, and the congregation assembled round him on the ground and I could not stand out [illegible] It was said that [illegible] partook of the Coalition dinner, as they called it, (25 cents a ticket) We all took din[ner] out doors with them, but were sorry we did, for it was a [illegible] [illegible] it, hardly fit to eat, and not [illegible] enough of that. A [illegible] came up just as we had finished our repast and I was obliged to [illegible] I did not [illegible] no toasts, which I suppose were the best part. [illegible] said the first one, (just as they had eat up all there was & there was not a piece to [illegible]) was

Little Lucy & James eat some green currants Saturday & have not been very well since. The rest of us are all well as usual. Write soon.

"Peace, peace when there is no peace". very appropriate, I thought; another, "The Washingtonians; we wish them nothing worse than that they may eat this dinner over again". Another, "Martha Washingtonians today and Martha washing petticoats tomorrow" Another, "The ladies of Piscataquis; they are all temperance men." &c. &c. I should think there was, as you say, "incalculable injury done to white dresses and silk bonnets."

Harriet Hoxie and Charles Howard were [illegible] by [illegible] a few days since, by C. G. Fox.

Bowen went home the week after you went away — I went too, and staid a few days to get him contented in his new place of abode. He seems quite contented now, though yesterday noon I went in to see him, and he would not go from me to his father or mother. Mr. Sewall was there, and after looking at him a few minutes, baby went to him. He appeared to think that Mr. S. was Charles, for he never will go to a stranger at all. There have been 3 or 4 deaths in Milton of scarlet fever since Maria Kimball died. Annah Cain died last week of it, having been sick only three days. She did not have her reason after she was taken sick.

Mr. Cain has buried eight children before, and they were all taken up and buried with Annah in the same grave. There is now only William left, and he is very sick, with the same disorder, as is also Mrs. Cain.

There was a meeting last Saturday for the examination of any who wished to unite with the congregational church. Major Furber, Mr. Fox and his wife and Eliab came forward, were examined, and propounded for admission yesterday. Olive Furber has returned, and I hoped that she and Theodore would offer themselves for examination, but they did not. There is to be another meeting soon, and I hope some others will come forward then. The Dr., Theodore & Eliza, Lucretia Haskell, Sarah Jane Stanchfield, Alice Sargent, and Marshall and Abby & Maria are all, I believe indulging hope. Mr. Billington has come out at last, a decided Universalist. There have been eight persons baptised by immersion seven of whom have united with the Baptist church; the other, Jane Carver, did

not because her father was not willing. Ellen Lee, has recovered from her insanity entirely, but her health is very feeble. Mrs. Sparhawks step-daughter is at Col. Lee's - I suppose you want to know all about the farming business, but I cannot tell you much about it - I believe the boys have got most done hoeing - The black heifer's calf is being fatted for veal - be killed in a few days.

Mr. Sewall was saying yesterday that in Brownville there had been a great effort made by the methodists to induce the converts to join their church, (something with them I conclude, as it has been here with the Baptists) and Mr. S. said he had kept silent, let things go on in their own way, and had very little conversation with any of them until requested by their parents. The other day he spoke with Chase Page and some others about the duty of joining some church, asked them why they had not &c.; they said they had been trying to be methodists. "Well, how did you make it," said he, "I couldn't make it go". He said Chase Page either had was going to unite with his church. You did not write anything about your[illegible] Isaac, but I do hope you continue steadfast, determined to follow on to know the [illegible]

If you are, dear brother, if you have decided to be a follower of the Savior, do not hesitate to let it be known wherever you are. Let the world know you are a Christian; not only tell them of it, but let them see it by the difference in your character and actions. A half-way christian cannot have much enjoyment in any way; Conscience reproaches them continually - they cannot enjoy the world, even as well as they before they began to be christians, and they cannot derive that happiness from God which they could, if they lived in more constant communion with him. I know I do not have so much, not near as much happiness & enjoyment of religion as I might have & should have if I was more devoted in the service of God, more faithful in duty, more constant & fervent in prayer, & less taken up with the trifling & foolish things of earth. And yet my heart is so prone to sin, so forgetful of God, that notwithstanding I know the trouble & sorrow it occasions, I am so often led astray, that I am often led to fear, for myself, & almost to think it impossible that I have ever truly given my heart to God. I entreat you, Isaac never to neglect secret prayer - prayer is the life of the soul - If secret prayer is neglected the heart

and the affections will grow cold. The vital power of religion is gone. If we do habitually neglect secret prayer we have reason to tremble for our selves ~~that~~ we are not and never have been real Christians.

"Prayer is the Christian's vital breath
The Christian's native air;
His watchword at the gates of death,
He enters heaven with prayer."

Mr. Isaac S. Metcalf
Exeter
Maine

Care of Mr. [illegible] Cutler.

10

Milo Me
July 20

J. Metcalf
July 20th 1842

Exeter

You wished a bundle sent immediately, but did not write of what it should be composed. We concluded, however that the key was the principal thing, and Mr. Cutler said he sent ~~[illegible]~~ as Charles directed him. If you want anything else, tell us what and it shall be forwarded immediately. I suppose you know that Charles has gone to Boston after work as he could get none at Bangor. I must say fine's—
Your ever affectionate Sister Lucy.

A Miss
([illegible])

Milo May 14th 1842

Dear Sister Ann & Brother Isaac,

You request long letters & I seem to be the most unoccupied with work and care, of any of the folks; so I suppose it devolves on me, as usual, to be news-bearer &c. for the family.

Well,—; A Mr. Heald, from Harmony, came here Thursday morning to see Charles, stating that he (or his son, I believe they are in partnership) had taken the Grist Mill for a year, and wished to take the Carding & Cloth dressing Mill too — So they talked and talked (as you know how) a long time, then went down to the mill, examined the machinery &c. &c. Yesterday he came again, talked all the afternoon, and staid all night. This morning they wrote an agreement, each took a copy, and he went off. Charles has let him the mill for one year, and I believe partly agreed to for 5 years, though it is not concluded, and will not be until they see how matters will turn out a little. Charles is to furnish materials for repairing the mill, and Mr. Heald is to do the work, and pay 50,00 a year in money for the rent. Mr. H. appears to be a very clever, good sort of a man, a kind of a Thomsonian doctor, for his own family; I don't know how much farther his practice extend. His business has been for some time repairing machines here & there —, though he has built machinery, he says, some. He's got a wife & eight children, to move here — I should think him about 40 or 45 years old by his looks, though he has been sick considerable & that may occasion him to look older than he really is. Now I will tell you what I should have told at the beginning — that we recieved the bundle & letter by Mr. Cutts, for which we are much obliged — Mother will get the Vest made as soon as she can, but Persis Sargent has been sick & I suppose is not able to do it yet; & Almeida has neglected her work so much to attend meeting that she is very much hurried & cannot do it. The Dickards will be very acceptable to Charles I do not doubt — I should think it would be far cheaper to buy them ready made, than to buy the linen & make them if, (as I believe you wrote,) you got them for 1/ apiece. I wish, Isaac, if you can conveniently, you would before you come home get me a Hymn book — I want a small size, perhaps 4 inches long or so — if you have ever noticed Ellen Lee's you know what I want. We need another one, as the leaves are many of them out of one of ours.

The boys have brought the Hydrangea home; it is alive & well — several new shoots have sprung up. I hope, Ann, you will think of me with a feeling of commiseration, as the crisis, as Jo calls it, is approaching. Next Friday, the twentieth of May, & my birthday, is college vacation. O, botheration, and after that time for a fortnight, O what misery shall I not undergo! in the first place the pleasures of anticipation, you know are very great; and then, O then the awful reality; when the prodigy, or as Mother expresses it with more propriety, the prodigal, actually appears before my wondering eyes. But let this disagreeable though momentous subject be banished from our minds. Charles has finished plastering — the house is all done excepting the doors, shelves in the closets

and painting. It is not probable that it will be completed in season for us to move before the Crisis, so we shall ~~can~~ stay in the shell & make no attempt to hatch & crawl out prior to that period. Afternoon — Mother & Charles have just concluded not to try to move till just before haying, as the spring work is driving, so they think it inexpedient; As it is put off so long, I think it doubtful whether we get started before snow comes, so I am going to do my best endeavours to fit up our parlor suitable for the reception of company. The boys are ploughing a spot in the north field for a garden, as the place by the house is so weedy. The boys have brought in several kinds of flowers this Spring I suppose you have Lilacs. I have begun to collect specimens for an Herbarium. When you come home, Ann we will study Botany together, and when we can get a suitable book, we will have a nice Herbarium like Joseph's & go snacks getting specimens. I don't expect to do much gardening this summer for lack of a good place & strength to take care of it; but I must entice Jimmy or somebody else to make me some flower boxes. I myself, I. all alone made Elial a pr of shirts entire, in 5 days this week, besides doing several other little matters. & Joseph has engaged the S. Circle to make him a pr, which they will finish next time they meet I suppose. I intended to have gone last time but it was too windy.

The revival in Brownville is more interesting than ever it is said, especially in the north part, so much so, that Mr. Sewall & Wilkins could neither of them leave to come here this week & there has been no minister here except a Mr. Mayhew, (young man from Charlestown) who was here two or three evenings. Major Furber thinks he experienced religion last week — When he was sick a year ago, he made many promises with regard to how he would spend his life if it was spared, which people ~~thought~~ think he has not performed; but he said at the commencement of the meeting that he thought he had kept them all. He now thinks differently about it. Mr. Richards says when this meeting is done, he is going to hold a protracted meeting.

You did not write anything about the vest which you sent up — do you want it made & sent back or shan't you want it till you come home. Monday morn. Mr. Cutler & Aron are going back this afternoon & we will send this by them. I went to meeting yesterday all day — Mr. Thibbets from Exeter preached in the forenoon & Mr. Strout from Bradford in the afternoon. — preached an excellent sermon from 1 Corinthians 1—30 — using up the Universalists, Deists, Infidels &c. &c. entirely.

Amongst us all we have made an awful looking letter I think — I fear you will not be able to read it — write soon particu[illegible]

Nota bene Isaac! Charles left his surtout (and his gloves in the pocket) at the tavern where he stay'd (Bakers I believe) wants you should go directly and see about it he sent by Mr Walch but he couldn't remember the place and you were up the river he said I'm very much afraid he never'll get it again

Ann we want to hear all about your school, troubles & trials, enjoyments & pleasures & all the [illegible]

Well we have sowed 3½ bush of Peas up to the head of interval - hauled out 7 loads of manure & ploughed a garden - Sum total of farm proceedings. We calculate that the farm is divided near where you proposed viz: from plum stub down 20 rods across the bridge to Elm just below the thorn tree twixt barley & oats thence in a right line to the N. bank of Pistataquis River. We i.e. El. & Joe want some peas to sow on ground to be broken up next thursday at above the brook but peas are peculiar scarce - none in Milo. Dan Steb had in Jo. Chace of Sebec for Cash $1.00 per bush I suppose. Mere foolish undertaking with regard to James house has befalled us & about farm operations & everything else. Folly in the extreme has been exhibited in our hopperations this spring. We are backward in ploughing & sowing & have not procured our seed wheat & peas & know it is too late to either at all. I am in such a hurry I can't tell what to write nor should I write with audacity or imposture so -- Goodbye Joseph Metcalf

Mr. Wyman has got home - came here this morning & was very much struck up when he found that Charles had let the mill to Heald you know Charles told him he would give him 10 dollars to tell what sum he would give or take & this morning he told C. that he would give or take 500,00. Now C. says he is in a quandary having let the mill to Mr. Heald - Charles wants to buy if he can pay with horse, hay &c. but with the mill & I wish he would sell for 500.00 & pay his debts, buy him a horse, buy him a farm & settle down in life & try to enjoy himself a little after having had so much trouble &c. &c. so long. I think he has had trouble enough

I can't write a good long letter this time either but my Dear Son I want to intreat you to beware and not neglect known duty dont begin to do it as you value your peace & happiness or your usefulness - I trust you are setting out in a new way be careful to begin right in every respect and your journey will be far less difficult and dangerous - you may be after dark therefore make constant use of your lamp the oil of it will never fail if constantly used but unlike some other lamps the more it is used the more light it will give & moreover in connection with constant fervent prayer it will be food for you make you strong and healthy all your journey through

Ann we want to hear all about your school, troubles & trials, enjoyments & pleasures & all the particulars

L. H. Metcalf
May 14th 1842
Milo

Mr. Isaac S. Metcalf

Bangor
Maine

Favored by Mr. Cutter.

Bangor

Winter 1843 — 1843

Dear Brother Isaac

As Joseph is going to Foxcroft today, Mother takes this favorable opportunity to rebuke you, through me, for studying too hard, and doing sundry other evil deeds which she suspects you are guilty of, such as neglecting to call upon certain young ladies &c. &c. &c. which according to all rules of politeness you are in duty bound to do. Also when we earnestly desire, and have frequently requested to know what studies you are pursueing, you have in all your epistles neglected to communicate said information. You are therefore rebuked accordingly, while at the same time we hope you will do better in future. By no means stand upon your dignity with regard to school, for it will be a slippery foundation. Ann says presume not to ask more than twenty dollars or thereabouts, lest you should lose the school, as the renowned C. M. Stevens could get only twenty, and it will be vain for you to aspire to be greater than he! Ann says be sure and engage that or some other school speedily lest all the good ones should be engaged. Also the one at 4 corners for Joseph if possible. We have thought considerable lately (or Mother and Ann have) of taking the baby (Elisha) and going to Massachusetts to spend the winter; ~~Mother~~ & Ann would visit about, and Elisha could board ~~at~~ Uncle Jacob's and go to the high school this winter, and in the spring go in with Chauncy Chase or some one else in Boston as Apprentice. This is all very fine to talk about, but I fear the plan will not go into execution for lack of ~~funds~~ funds. We want to know what you are studying, and when you

are so silent about it. Also what you have to do, how you like your employment, your boarding place, and whether Mr. Yates is ~~clever~~ to you. I ought to write to Rebecca Towne, but have not yet had time. If you have an opportunity give my "love and duty" to her, as the old woman said. Mr. & Mrs. Hale are going to Massachusetts to spend the winter. Theodore and Sarah will be married soon. Naomi and James Bennett have broken up their match. Mr. Stewart has been here ten days shoemaking, for which Charles paid him the two-year old heifer for 14 dollars on condition that Stewart would pay ~~Mr.~~ Yates in oats and peas ~~for some~~ tools that Charles had of him. Ann wants you should get "Conversations in French" from Emily Chandler, which she lent to her. If she goes not away this winter we are going to study French &c. this winter. fine times. A Mr. Hartwell from St. Albans has engaged the school and singing school at the Mills. It is expected that Mr. Chadbourn will keep our school. I cannot stop to write more now — Your affectionate Sister Lucy

Last winter Bro. Stevens rec'd but $20.00 [illegible] before A. [illegible] takes [illegible] $15 per month & [illegible] board is full [illegible] for you. We have finished digging potatoes except the piece in the sheep pasture. It took 10 days work to dig those on the knoll, which were = 13½ large, 10½ small. On the piece in the [illegible] there were ten bushels. Out in the woods 44 bush. besides small ones. [illegible] piece on interval 108 bush. all told. Mr. Gilman is expected to have the black heifer for $15.00. Stuart has taken the [illegible] for $7.00 in shoemaking at $1.00 per day & 7 cwt. of [illegible]. Mr. S. made you a pr. of thick boots + 1 pr. thin shoes. A. J.'s time is out next Monday. ~~Stewart~~ has taken one of the hogs to fat at the [illegible]. Mr. [illegible] rode up here last Friday — was pretty tired.

Mich. Nov. 15th 1843.

Dear Brother Frank Ann has gone to Bangor and I suppose Mother will start Friday, so of course I am in a great hurry and cannot spare time to write much, but I want to write a little of what Ann intended to write about the School &c. She began in the morning with the highest class in reading and heard every scholar read, which occupied all the time till recess and sometimes longer. After recess, recitations in Arithmetic, Colburn &c. &c. In afternoon little scholars read again, recitations, parsing and all the classes spell.

Her plan, which was very much liked was to let the scholars take places as they spell, but yet are placed them every Monday morning according to the number of marks each recieved for bad recitations, whispering, or any irregular conduct. The one who had the fewest marks, in each class recieved a ticket at the end of the week and was placed at the head Monday morning; and the scholar who, at the close of school, had the greatest number of tickets, had the promise of a small present. She thinks you will do well to follow very nearly the same plan which she had last summer - as they are used to that and were pleased with it. Mr. Foss was very much gratified with your letter and wishes you would write again though he is not able to answer it. He is very low indeed, and very childish. Expects to live but a very short time - he has spoken to James to make a coffin. He wants to give you a little advice about school-teaching says Ann is liked better than you boys for a teacher because she is more strict and smart in school - more like a "sheep's fore leg" right up and down as Mr. Hale says. He says in order to get along you must be energetic, strict with the large scholars and not let them run over you. It is your "nature" and mine too to be too easy. That was the greatest trouble with me in my school, I was to pleasant and softly as Mother says. You know Mr. Currey at Bradford said

the scholars [illegible] and the man at Brownville
told Charles you was most too good natured. C. M. Stevens
and Seth Carpenter will both be trying to make trouble
for you - and you must "live down Slander" you know
You must keep a Monitor all the time, as Ann did
and have them mark every whisper and evil deeds
The school is so large I don't believe you can get along
without. I want you should come home if you possibly
can before your school begins. I shall want to see you
after all the [illegible] of the [illegible] are gone. [illegible]
[illegible] which you can have if you want them.

My dear son   Milo 14th Nov

Ann has just started for Bangor with Mr. Mr. Cutts & I begin to feel sorry as if I should go without seeing you again I wish I could have seen you to tell you a great many things which you can after all do just as well without hearing but I shall feel very anxious about you am very much afraid you'll have trouble in your school you are standing on slippery ground strive with all your might to get down into the vally of Humiliation the garment of humility would save you a great deal of trouble and vexation about other garments I cant bear the idea of your getting in debt but I dont see as there is any thing I can do now to prevent it if you must have a Cap and handkerchief I suppose you would get them as cheap & to suit you as well to ask Mr Prentice to get them for you & I dont see any thing why it wouldn't be proper and expedient to ask Mr. Lark to pay Mr or lend you the money

I dont want you to be mean spirited but beware of boasting or thinking any thing of yourself try to act your part well in whatever you undertake without seeking or expecting applause from mankind

J. T. Metcalf Sir— I visited your room sans cere-
monie Mond. Eve about dark You was not
civil enough to offer me a chair &c. I went off
down to the Store & did my errand & then
left the Metropolis. There is a prospect that
abner butter will come here to [illegible] about
the first of December next. Charles has sold
the [illegible] cow to Mr Hol[illegible]n for $14.00. Chas. has got
the chimney in the 2 oft part done [illegible] up to
the roof. Had not I better set up a writing
School some where this winter? Smith desires to buy H. B. Sargent
farm for the sake of the lime stone large quantities of which
are required in the iron business. He offers $3.50. H. B.
S. asks $4.00. Fear not to write me letters. Send me a cat-
alogue by S. bye & bye & I'll pay the bill.

Yours respectfully J. M. Metcalf

Mr. Edes

Will you please insert the following lines written in memory of C. G. [illegible] Esq. late of [illegible] if you think them worthy a place in your paper.

Departed one! thy memory alone
It is which wakes my humble muse to sing.
Inspired by sweet remembrances of thee,
I fain would speak in tones which never might be
Forgotten. Thou wert on earth a chosen
Vessel of the Most High God. Thy life was [illegible]
Holy; even as it pleased Him well who
Called thee for His own. Like holy Enoch
Thou didst walk with God. It was thy meat and drink
To do the will of Him whom thou didst love
Better than aught upon the earth. Thy heart
Did love most ardently the cause of Christ.
Thy very soul delighted oft to meet
With those who loved His name. A feeble band
Were they, yet strong. A few true hearts thine own
A sample, enlisted in the cause of
Truth and right, with God their leader, were they not
A mighty band? Ah yes! but thou art gone!
Thou, who wert foremost in the ranks, to urge
Thy brethren on. Yes brother, thou art gone.
The vacant seat, the lone, deserted room,
And mourning friends, too plainly tell our sad
Bereavement. In our social meetings, when
Solemnly we gather round the altar of
Our God to seek his blessing on our needy souls,
We feel that one loved member of our band
Has left us and the tears unbidden flow
While memory pictures thee as once thou wert.
Oh! as we oft have met for prayer and praise
Within those consecrated walls, where God
Was wont to bless His chosen ones, whose voice
Most fervently was heard pleading with Him,
And supplicating with a holy tone

Of earnestness, which might not be denied?
Who there did wrestle with the angel of
The covenant, like Israel of old,
Feeling as though he must not go till He
Had given him a blessing?
Ah! let the
Grave reveal! that voice so often heard,
So much beloved, is silent now in death!
Its loved tones ne'er again will glad our hearts,
Like music's softest melody. There
In the confines of the grave it rests,
No more to sound until the last great day,
When all of every kindred, nation, tongue,
Shall be from their long slumber roused [illegible]
And judged according to God's righteous book.

But hark! the spirit that attuned that voice
Rests not within the grave. Thrice happy, it
Ascended, far above the skies to dwell
With seraphs and with angels round the throne
Of God. And sweeter and more loud do swell
The pealing notes of their triumphal song,
Since he, another ransomed one, has joined
The blissful chorus. He loved to speak the
Praise of God on earth, and now, in yon fair
"Heaven of love", his voice doth ring with shouts
Of loudest praise, through all the wide expanse
Of heaven, "ascribing glory, honor, power,
To Him who sits upon the throne, and to
The Lamb of God. He hath redeemed us by
His blood. [illegible] holy is thy name.
Sing Hallelujah, glory to our God."
And is this then thy joy? thy glory this?
Shall we then sigh and weep? Oh! 'twere sin
To drop one mournful tear for thee, since thou
Art now so full of joy. For thou hast done
With sorrow, toil and pain. Thy every tear
The Saviour's hand hath wiped away. [illegible]

Is never known within thy peaceful home,
And every care which here did around thy [illegible]
Is now forever banished from thy mind;
And peace eternal peace and godlike [illegible]
Will ever fill thy ~~soul~~ mind with raptures high.
We *may* *not* mourn for *thee*, but for *ourselves*
We well may weep in bitterness of soul.
While thou art taken to the realms of light
And clothed in robes of righteousness, we still
Are struggling on, distressed with ~~cares~~ wants and sins
And doubts and fears; continually oppressed
By the destructive, dreadful power of sin.
Oft when we're tempted, often [illegible]
To grieve ourselves and grieve the Saviour whom
We love.

Yet, but a few short years, will pass
And we, too, shall be called to leave this house
Of clay, and join thee, who art gone before,
In yonder haven of eternal rest.
Oh! might we *know* that this blest portion would
Be ours, that we might be admitted to
To those ~~seats~~ [illegible] of everlasting bliss;
How gladly would we labor all the
Appointed time, and when the summons came,
For us to lay aside our mortal life,
Then, with a peaceful smile, we would resign
Our spirits to His hand who did bestow,
And follow thee.

Milo Dec. 1843.

Milo Me
Dec 13 6

Mr Isaac S. Metcalfe
Fryeburg
Maine

Ohio Jan. 1st 1844.

Dear Brother Isaac

I wish you a "happy New Year." For myself, I believe I am not quite as happy, at the ushering in of this New Year, as I should be, were I in the enjoyment of perfect health. I am, however, I think, convalescing; and that you know is encouraging. My lameness is entirely removed, but I am very weak, (much more so than when you was at home) in consequence, I suppose, of taking Calomel.

I have done taking it now, and hope to be about again in a few days. I suppose I exerted myself a little more than I should, by sitting up so much when you came home, so that I have not been so well; but if I am careful I shall be well soon. I think.

We recieved two letters the very day after you went away; one from Mother, ditto from Ann. I want to send them to you, (and would were it not for the postage) but instead thereof I will tell you the most important news contained therein. Ann, when she wrote, was in Boston, but was going to Warwick the next day. She had been to Woonsocket and spent a week; And Mother & Elijah had spent a week in Lowell.

Jan. 3rd. Mother writes that she found Uncle Enoch's folks trying to be very genteel & fashionable; livein very grand style - Enoch thinks it is alltogether too small

business for him in a Counting room at only Twenty dollars per month, so he has applied for Midshipman's berth, and expects to get it. Isaac Newton gets his living by teaching Music &c. has two hundred dollars per year for singing in the Episcopal Church. At the last commencement at Yale, he was sent for to go there & received $50,00 for singing three pieces at a Concert. Caleb has married a step-daughter of a Professor in Yale College, and is now teaching music in Philadelphia, though he has applied for a situation in Boston as a teacher of the languages.

Uncle Pelatiah's folks are prospering as well as usual and Uncle Joseph's are all well & happy. Humphrey is teaching school - boards at home. Addison works with Hannah's husband at shoemaking, tannery business &c. Maria is at the Normal school, (manual labor) at Lexington, intends to stay a year longer. Uncle Jacob drinks yet. Josiah is teaching in Royalston. Our good friend Mrs. Childs (can you credit the assertion) did "open her heart" so wide as to take Mother and Eliab both in. She was graciously pleased to bestow upon Eliab, as a remuneration for sundry errands &c. done by him, a nice broadcloth coat, which belonged to Mr. Childs, (which, by the way Mother thinks can be made over into a handsome dress coat for you, so she says you must better not get one till she comes home) also a pr of pants, a nice comforter, a pr of gloves and a silver dollar. To Mother she did in like manner present calico for a dress, a dollar in money and a quantity of fine bleached cotton which Mother

intends to manufacture into some shirts for your honor. Is'nt it a pity she did not open her heart a "little further" and let E. stay with her to do her chores & go to school this winter? He has not found a place to work any for his board yet. Ann thinks of coming home by land in February, so as to try to get a situation in Bangor in the spring, but does not wish anything said about it.

This epistle bears a striking resemblance to its Author, I must acknowledge; however, you must excuse it for I can hardly write at all and suppose I ought not.

Jan. 4th. Theodore and Sarah called here yesterday to bespeak divers articles of furniture, such as bedsteads, tables &c. &c. they intend to commence housekeeping next week. Olive Forbes [illegible] with them to borrow a Colburn's Algebra. It is said the "village master, skilled to rule", is partial in his "little school" to Miss O. G. Forbes. I would fain be informed, I swear, in what conspicuous situation you was placed, when the posterior part of your cloth inexpressibles "did rend asunder so"? I shall be utterly unable to mend them — can you do without them till Mother comes home? I spun some yarn for your mittens before I was sick, & will knit them as soon as I can, but I fear not before you will need them. I dare not mention the red shirts, for I know not when I shall be able to get them done. Mr. Gilman came here last Monday. C. has sold him the black horse, sleigh and harness for $100. —, of which he is to receive ~~[illegible]~~ days works this winter, and the rest when C. wants it. So now you see I shall be obliged to abide in my own little domicil until milder weather. I am preparing sundry

pieces of composition now-a-days, peradventure I should go!: Foxcroft in the spring. I am progressing rapidly (when I feel well enough to study) in Arithmetic &c. I feel anxious to know whether friend Frith has recovered his wonted self possession yet? I sorely feared he never would, after the fright he received by being so unceremoniously ushered into my sickly presence. Please present my unfeigned respects unto him, and inform him [illegible] with regard to my health; which information he politely requested to receive, when he departed hence. Your affectionate Sister Lucy.

Do write soon —

Mr. Isaac S. Metcalfe —
Foxcroft
Maine.

Jan. 11th
Foxcroft

I want you should write long and soon all about how you and Mr. Parker's folks get along and how you and the school prosper.
Peradventure on account of my age and experience, I may be able to impart unto you some sage advice, which might be useful. I intend to send a letter to Mother and one to Joseph next week.

Phila Jan. 15th 1844.

My Dear Brother-

I recieved your most acceptable epistle last night, for which I am very much obliged. A sheet and ½ well filled with interesting matter; I will [illegible] a part, at least, of my rebuke on the score of "letter writing."

I have also this year written to Mother and Joseph. [illegible] to almost envy Charles & I our happiness is home: and I acknowledge that home, "sweet home" is the best of all places, be it never so homely. We have some "cozie", nice times here these long evenings, but still there seems to be something lacking. Once in a while, I cannot help thinking that we should be happier if one of the loved absent brothers, or the dear, dear Mother could step in and spend an evening with us. However, it is next to seeing them to recieve good long, loving letters from them. We cannot expect, in this world, to be so situated, for any length of time, as to enjoy uninterrupted happiness - there is always something to mar our enjoyment; and it is best for us that it should be so. If it were not, we should soon become so completely engrossed with our worldly cares and pleasures as to forget in a great measure the higher duties which we owe to our Heavenly Father. You express fears for Charley, that he is resting on the wrong foundation, &c. I also fear for him and have felt many times that I ought to say something to him. But I am myself so far out of the way - he sees in me so much that is wrong and so little of that lively engagedness and interest in the cause of Religion which the Christian should daily manifest that it seems as though it would be almost hypocrisy in me to talk to him on the subject, I wish you [illegible]
and besides I cannot talk with him about any thing as with either of the other brothers - I dont know why, hardly. He is good & kind [illegible] since.

would write him a good faithful letter. I am much obliged for the "Sermon" and should have been very glad to hear the whole of it.

How I wish I could live where I could hear such sermons every Sabbath! I know it is in a great measure my own fault, that I am so little engaged in Religion — so dull and lifeless, and that I do not rightly improve the privileges which I do enjoy; but I think we here do not have enough to incite us; to stimulate. No prayer meetings, Monthly Concerts or any thing of the kind where warm and holy feeling is called forth. We do not "speak often one to another"; and thereby, by frequent intercourse with Christians, and above all by mutual prayer and supplication, obtain and retain in our hearts those precious influences of the life-giving Spirit which the Christian must possess in order to be "fervent in Spirit, serving the Lord." Dear Brother pray for us. We are, as a Church, cold stupid and heartless.

You must be cautious about getting prejudiced against Mrs. P. She is, I acknowledge, too talkative, and as a matter of course sometimes speaks injudiciously; yet there are very many good qualities in her. Recollect, you see very little of her, except at meal-times &c. &c. when she is more engaged about other things, & pays less attention to children &c. She does know how to govern, and take proper care of them, but sometimes gets so much engaged talking as to entirely forget them. Are her children troublesome in school? With regard to sundry evil reports concerning your school — you must "live down slanders." Isn't that good advice?

I have lately been reading "Paradise Lost" and made [illegible] [illegible] did the thing [illegible]. I have "read it [illegible] a little" [illegible], but [illegible] interested in it before. It is certainly by far the most interesting poetry I ever read. I always loved Pollock, and thought nobody could write [illegible] him. What a description of the "battle in heaven"! And how ingeniously he accounts for Eve's being deceived by the serpent. I have wondered sometimes why she was not surprised at the serpent knowing how to talk. But according to Milton he explains there in a very [illegible] cunning manner, "that he had eaten of the tree of knowledge, and if she would do the same, her knowledge would be increased in [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] has perused with great apparent interest, though he says little about it. "Paradise Lost," [illegible] "Heathen Gods," The Wreath &c. &c. Mr. Gilman is very much interested just now in it. Fingal. I very much fear that he does not exert a good influence over Charly, in every respect though I like him on most accounts very well. He is a Fatalist, or very nearly so. Very frequently makes observations like this "that if a man is to have property or any thing, he will have it, whether he

works or plays), &c. &c. Jan. 16th. Mr. Hackett preached here a week from last Sabbath on trial. If the people want him, if he can sell his farm where he lives and if he can buy one here, he will come. I hope he will. I am once in a while writing a composition, so as to save time next Spring. I wrote a "piece of verse" 'tother day which made me think of

"A soundless voice that none can hear—
A rayless light that none can see
A sorrowing smile—a mirthful tear—
A dismal hope—a lovely fear—
And this is modern poetry." — Before I proceed further, I desire to know your conclusion, if any you have formed, when [illegible] because my going to Foxcroft depends in some measure on that conclusion. If you conclude to go through College, I do not wish to have you pay, or furnish me [illegible] because you will need yourself all that you have, and what we can help you to besides; but if you do not go I 'spose I shall have to draw [illegible] some (that is, with your permission) it takes two to make a bargain) besides what Joseph can let me have. Then I can teach school next summer & thereby repay you [illegible] as we have aforesaid,—if you do go, we are all willing to help you as much as lies in our power. Do you have your scholars draw maps? Ann did, and the scholars' parents and Committee were much pleased thereat. Have the Committee visited your school yet and what do they say about it? Our Master at the mills has the scholars who can write, write compositions, which are read every Sat. afternoon. Frances A. Cully says she is pretty good at Composition and [illegible] reading room at Foxcroft, that she don't care any thing about it now. Did she ever read any there? Olive Parker has done going to school [illegible] she could not get on Algebra. I wish you could come home again before the term commences up there, but I suppose it would be hardly worth while, to come so far [illegible] something necessary. I want to "talk over matters". You know Charles never will say much but "I don't know"— I have got to the "appendix in Arithmetic" Charles [illegible] want you need another pair of stockings before Mother comes home? I will get your mittens done so to carry them if I go to Foxcroft and if not C. will go before long. He is going to Bangor next week— Mr Gilman is going to take the horse & sleigh over Monday for him. He received one journey to Bangor where he sold it. I don't know as my letters are worth the postage, but I want to hear from you so I take it for granted that you do from me. The [illegible] froze considerably this cold weather Twenty two below zero one morning this week. Hear not respecting Calomel doses. The Dr. has not been near us lately and I did not scruple to dismiss him and throw away [illegible] he left!— Did you go [illegible] from this Church if you did not. January 3rd I must finish this today I suppose as I can have an opportunity to send to the P.O. tomorrow and may not have another before Saturday. I have not heard from Joseph since you was at home— Suppose his school closes next week. Have you found another for him? Charles has not. I saw a notice of Foxcroft Academy in the last week's Farmer, wherein your name, Isaac H. [illegible] was put. You have not said yet whether you should continue in the Academy next term or not. My pen is so grievous I can hardly write. If you do not come home be sure and write again before the term commences—won't you?

Have you found your pen-knife? we have seen nothing of it here— Almeda wants to know if you will sell her some oats and peas and let her make your vest to pay. She has had one bushel, and would like some more if she can pay in that way. Charles thinks he has done well to sell his horse for so much, and Gilman has done well too. He makes good wages at $1,00 per day these short days. He is to work fifty days more and [illegible] C. wants it,—next year [illegible]

James has found a new place in the Bible—or at least that is, never noticed before, which proves (J. says) beyond a doubt that the Jews are not to be restored. Or that if they are, a "remnant" from "Judah [illegible] will be at the same time. Read "Ezekiel

sixteenth chapter, commencing at the fifty third verse and see what you think of it. Chapin[?] [illegible] folks are somewhat disappointed that Mr. Tash did not call there. Aaron Hi[?] returned with his bride last Sabbath! He has engaged James to make him some furniture — work tables, bedsteads, &c. and Theodore [illegible] has taken [illegible] two bedsteads, two [illegible] tables &c. &c.

Mr. Isaac S. Metcalf
Foxcroft —
Maine

6

Bristol Me
Jan 23.

Lucy N. Metcalf
Jan. [illegible] 1844

Jan. [illegible] 1844

So James is likely to have work enough if he will only do it. Did I tell you in my last that Emery has let his oxen to a man in Kilmarnock[?] for two months at 6.00 per month, thereby saving considerable hay to pay Mr. [illegible] for lumber. James read a sermon [illegible] you; I have not yet read it. affectionately [illegible]

Friday May 24th. 1844.

Dear Brother

As we are going to send your bundle, I will write a few words although I have nothing of any importance to say. I send you a nice great Pen-wiper, which I hope you will make daily use of. After you get accustomed to it, you will find it a very convenient way to wipe your pen. I was sorry I said so much about boarding at Mr. Moulton's, as you could probably decide best about it, though I had, to be sure, much rather you would find a different place.

I intend, occasionally, this summer, to favor friend Edes with some "original matter" for the "Scatasquis", with which he will be so pleased, perhaps, as to be willing to give a "quarter of a dollar" for it. What do you think about it? Eh!

By the way, let me tell you now, to burn this letter immediately, — I would not have it seen for anything.

The False-hearted.

I loved her — and I fondly thought
My love on her was well bestowed;
I gazed into her clear gray eye,
And thought it with affection glowed.

Her open brow, her sparkling eye,
Her smiling lip, her welcome hand,
Her cordial greeting when we met, —
Spoke what I could but understand.

Mine was a love warm from the heart;—
A blind, decieving love to me;
Though many told me she was false
I saw it not— I could not see.

Her every look, her every word,
To *me* seemed open, frank and free;—
Others derided when they saw,
And kindly bade me wary be.

I trusted long—but found her false,—
Soon I recieved neglect and scorn;—
Too long confiding in her truth,
My heart is now with anguish torn.

I love her still—shall ever love,—
And O, to Heaven I'll daily pray
That she may never, never feel
Such anguish as is mine today.

Lucy.

I would have written it off nicely on another piece of paper if I had had a good pen, to save you the trouble; but as my pen was so poor, if you think it is *fit*, you can write it off *very plain* so that *blundering* Edes need not make too many mistakes, sign *Lucy* at the bottom & hand it to him. Nobody will know what "Lucy" it is, you know.

I wish you would send us a paper once in a while, if you can pick up one, so that we can have some to send N. We cannot get any but Farmers and Mirrors, and

If you do anything with this scribbling just a female signature to it — otherwise it will be taken for some poor broken hearted "lover's plaint."

you know Charles does not like to have us use Farmers. A Scataquis or a Gazette or some such a commodity would be very acceptable once in a while. Mother says better not sign Lucy — so you may put Sally or Betsy, George or John, or nothing just as you please; or three straight marks, thus, —— — ——

You can take the things out of the Kaleidescope sometimes and put some flower petals and small green leaves instead & make it look very pretty. Mother says remember & send some papers now and then if you can get any. I rec'd a paper from De Wolfe & Miss Fash by last mail. We also rec'd a letter from Joseph, which we put in the bundle. I intended to have marked your linen, but you wore away part of it & the rest mother packed in before I knew it; however, I can mark it next fall just as well. Our good friend young Mc Lellan came not back according to agreement. Charles is going to Bangor Monday. The School Agent Joseph speaks of, has not written — has probably engaged a Teacher before now; Charles is going to see about it when he goes down. I want to remind you again about calling with Mr. Fash at Mr. Parker's. You ought.

Sat. morning. Mother hardly knows what to do about sending bundle as it is so rainy, but I think she will, so I will finish my letter. We send some nice new shirts, you see; also some old ones for night-shirts. It is more genteel you know to dirty two shirts per week! I have written to Miss Fash — you can hand the letter to her, or to her brother. I feel as if I had not seen you for a long time & want to write a great piece, but cannot spare more time now, as we have got to get Joseph's trunk ready to send by Charles Monday. Good bye

P. S. Remember & burn this letter quick } Affectionately Sister Lucy.

One of your shirts is not quite finished. That is, has no "flap-gussetts". I guess, however, you have got enough shirts, so you will not need to wear it. We would rather not have it seen and washed if you can do without it.

I don't know as there will be room to send the night-shirts.

C. H. Metcalf
Milo
May 24th 1844

Mr. Isaac S. Metcalf.
Foxcroft,
Maine.

Foxcroft.
May 25th 1844

Be sure & burn this letter, or put it out of sight and hearing somewhere. Joseph is at work in a lath mill at Oldtown for ten dollars per month. We will write more particulars when we hear them. You had better write to him. Says he works at low wages so as to run no risk. We can't send Jo's letter because shall want to refer to it in putting up his trunk. He tells no news in particular. Butler is at Oldtown in a mill. Jo saw Sarah & Sister & [illegible] at Oldtown, t'other day. &c. &c. In great haste.

Milo May 25th 1844.

Dear Brother,

We have just sent away a bundle to you, and received yours from Foxcroft. I am very much afraid your books will get wet, it is so rainy, but I hope not. I am *very* sorry, dear brother, if I said too much about your boarding place, as I am afraid I did, from your note which came in the bundle. I meant to do right, but fear I was carried away too much by my *feelings*, as I too often am. I'll try not to do so again. You must not be influenced by me. I don't know enough, and ought not to have advised.

The more I think of it, the more I think it was unkind in me to say so much about your boarding place; but I hope I shall learn a *little wisdom* one of these days. I hope you will like at [illegible].

~~Saturday~~ June 1st Charles went to Bangor last monday & spoke with the man Joseph mentioned in his letter, at Libbey's Mills, Bradford, about a school for me; and he said if he did not hear from another Miss whom he had partially engaged by Thursday, he should be up here after me today, but he has not come & has probably engaged a Teacher. So you see I am *schoolless* yet. I wish you would keep a little watch, & perhaps you may hear of a school, to begin late, which I could take. There seems to be very little to do at home this Summer that will bring any profit. I want very much to teach a while this Summer to get a little money for you. I shall not need it particularly myself, but I want to do my part towards helping the rest.

Ann is at home today — goes back with Mr. Wilkins tomorrow. Her school is quite pleasant she says — not as hard as the one at Foxcroft — about sixty scholars. When Mr. Parker was at Mr. [illegible]s at the *Association*, he told Mrs. S. that he was not going to stay

I'll endeavor to be prepared for company Saturdays, but shall not expect you any other time. If I have an opportunity I will send Joseph's Herbarium. I presume he would have no objection provided you be very careful of them. You tell me to be a good girl, I will try — hope I shall — I tell you be *discreet* in all things, especially intercourse with the Ladies.

what he did not mean; but that he would certainly rather have Miss Rich teach his children six months, than a common teacher fourteen years. Mrs. S. told Ann of it. Did your books & things get wet? And have you got your coat done & does it look nice? Mr. Gilman has not come yet; I very much fear we shall not move before haying. Things in general don't get along very fast, though pretty well I guess, considering there is only Charles & Elijah to do all the work. E. works like a good fellow.

I forgot to tell you about the "Precept" business. Mr. Walker settles it up without any further trouble to Charles. Charles will need to furnish a few dollars more to settle that, and the "Jenness and Hanson" bill both.

Once in a while in a leisure moment I take up my Telemaque and read a little. I am most half through it now. It is very easy. I mean to study considerable this summer, whether I am at home, or teach.

The "Philadelphia Riot" made me think of a few words; consequently I wrote them down. You may do anything or nothing with them, just as you please.} If I am not famous for writing long vacant letters who is?

Lines written in view of the alarming increase of Popery in the United States.

God spare our land! our happy land!
Oh let not error rule;
Controlling, with an iron hand
The freedom of the soul.

Let not the monster Popery rise
With cruelty and blood,
And lift her impious hands & eyes
In mockery, to God.

Oh! let her not, with guilt replete,
Here wage her sinful strife;
Trampling, in scorn, beneath her feet
The precious "Word of Life."

Let not the rack, the martyr's stake,
The cruel, torturing wheel,
In this, our happy country, make
Apostates from thy will.

Oh! spare our land! our happy land!
And let not error rule;
Controlling, with an iron hand
The freedom of the soul.

Mother says so much about writing long pieces, that I abridge greatly of late. Do you ever see any thing of Miss Carter nowadays? I sent a paper to her the other day, — also received one from N. E. Carpenter. Very much obliged for the Farmers which you sent. E. sent them all to Massachusetts.

June 7th. Mr. Gilman came here to work last Monday. The work on the house progresses finely. C. works most of the time with Mr. G. and Eliab takes charge of the farming operations. John Dolin is helping him plant potatoes yesterday & today. E. washed the sheep all alone, one day this week. He is a real "smart" boy to work. I am afraid he will work too hard this summer. The report about here is that there will be a Mob in Bangor fourth of July, to injure the Irish people as much as possible. I think there ought to be a great duty on Irish Emigrants, to prevent so many from flocking into this country. Angella Bennett commenced teaching the school at Milo village last Monday. I suppose I might have had it just as well, only Mother was afraid. I had a paper from Miss Tash this week, wherein she said she should write soon. You did not write whether there were any "pretty girls" there as Clark says. By the way, did not he rebuke you for your audacity in showing his letter? I wish you would write particularly all about your situation, studies, joys & sorrows, pleasures & afflictions, who attends school &c. &c. We want to hear all. C. Parker concluded not to have his leg taken off, — or the doctors concluded not to have him, rather. Nine M. D's met together to consult about it the other day. He says he will have it off, if he has to go to Boston for it. Very resolute. Smart fellow, I guess. Congregationalist & Baptist Conference united, at the Mills, tomorrow; I think of going down to stay till Sunday. Mr. Hackett is not coming here; and we shall be almost entirely without preaching this summer excepting good friend Wilkins' charity. I say charity, — for he says he has never received a dollar of money for his preaching here, except that Charles paid him three dollars.

I suppose he has had some small presents, but very little, I guess. He came here to see Sabbath night & Mother gave him a pr. of stockings. Pitiful gift! I wish we could do more. Do write long, very long, good letters, often. Tell how you like at Mr. Cochrane's — I hope you will enjoy yourself as well as you would have done at Moulton's. I felt bad because I said any thing about it, as you could undoubtedly decide best where to go. Have you written to Joseph? if not, I wish you would. Allin Hoxie brought a fine bill for Joseph today for ~~for~~ hay.

Mother says she wants to write to Isaac, the dear boy. I guess she will write soon, — one of "Mother's letters". She says she has lost her faculty for letter-writing — if she begins, her thoughts are so confused she can hardly think of any-thing to write. The fact is, our dear Mother is growing old; but oh, may she yet be spared to us, long, very long. Though we are too apt, all of us, to neglect her motherly advice which she so often gives in so much kindness, yet what could we do if we no longer had it. I really believe there are few mothers like our Mother. I become more sensible of it every day. Glad you saved another from drowning — pleasing recollection. Be careful not to endanger yourself.

Soon. I am afraid he will get his hands torn [illegible] in the machinery. We forgot to put your old worsted [illegible] in the bundle, but C. will probably go to Dover in a week or two & will [illegible] it them. Tom [illegible] pleasant Sat. afternoon, I should think you would want to come home & see the folks. If we had horse & chaise of our own I would come for you after you [illegible] sometime. Give my love to all inquiring friends. Your ever affectionate Sister Lucy.

[illegible] I have just read your good long letter [illegible] nearly filled my sheet that I cannot answer it this time. [illegible] your enjoyed your excursion so much. Guess Charles and folks are pretty clever, with regard to coming to Milo, very glad to see you any time & always happy to see all company. [illegible]

Mr. Isaac S. Metcalf,
Foxcroft,
Maine

Milo June 12

6

L. H. Metcalf
Milo
June 12th 1847

9th 1845.

Very dear Brother,

Aaron Hill is going to Bangor tomorrow, and I gladly avail myself of this opportunity to write you a letter. I should have written before, but going to school ~~takes my time & attention~~.

Dr. Sewall and his lady have been here & at Amelia's today. I got home from school just as they were going away. I have just got through that abominable eighth section in Algebra — am now synonymous with Albert Cook, my classmate. I am very eager to communicate to you the particulars of Joseph's new ejection from his Pedagogueship by the S. S. C. of Milo which, you know, is composed of "pomp, soft sawder, & common sense" about equal quantities of each ingredient, in the persons of Macomber, Chadbourn and Tolman. The latter visited the school in his official capacity last week Thursday by request of Chadbourn, who told him there had been trouble in the school. He behaved very civilly, as a man should, & expressed himself well pleased & satisfied with the school, but seemed somewhat surprised when J. told him there had been no difficulty whatever. Friday night Macomber came home from his school in Garland, & Sat. he and Chad. (or "Uncle Jo," as George Hale styles him) came in all the pomp & majesty of their consplateration, having given out word before hand that they were going to do "some great thing." By the way, let me tell you that George Stinsford (who lives

The Committee did really praise the school, to the scholars, a good deal & left a good impression on their minds, that after all the fuss, he was considered a good teacher. The scholars are all very pleasant, obedient & docile & I guess are well satisfied with Joseph, with the exception of Stinsford, & perhaps one or two others.

at Macomber's) John Philbrooks & other evil-minded per-
sons,—from what motive we cannot guess—had circu-
lated all manner of false & ridiculous reports about the
school, which had come to the Committee's ears. These re-
ports were all brought up and investigated & proved false
before all the scholars. One was that the scholars played
cards in school; another, that Alfred Holman jumped
over his seat while Albert Cook was writing; that Cook said
"Let's have order"—Holman jumped over again, & Cook
again called for order; and the Master took no notice
of the affair &c. &c. It was current report that the school
was very noisy & the scholars very disorderly; whereas I
never saw a school of brighter, prettier, better disposed
scholars, large & small, in my life. Macomber had
threatened & Chadbourn had been "snake in the grass,"—and
the general opinion among the scholars was, that
J. was to be turned out of school. Well, the said S.S.C.
came in, thinking to overawe, overwhelm, brow-beat & con-
fuse our little diminutive Jo Metcalf at once; but lo!
what did he, but forthwith assume the "form & stature"
of a man, & be as brazen-faced as they. Chadbourn
had hardly got seated, before J. in hearing of all the school,
with all the "our Jo.ism" imaginable "took him to due" for
telling Tolman there was trouble in school, and asked him the
Author of the reports. The poor man was dumb-foundered, as
the saying is;—he turned pale & red & pale again; and finally
said the reports were very trifling, he thought it not worth while to
give credence to them, he could not remember who told him!!!
J. ~~told him if~~ hinted that they were worth telling to Tolman! and said such
reports so injurious to the characters of such young men as he had

in his School, — young men with whom he had been acquainted for years, & whom he valued as his friends, were circulated he thought it would be treating them unjustly to pass it all by &c. He had no notion of letting the matter drop so easily. Mr. C. knew not what to say, but seemed very certain that 'twas best to let such idle tales die a "natural death". Joseph talked well to them, & said such things that if Cook, Holmans &c. had not been friendly before, that would have made them so. He told them that Cook was there & could speak for himself. They questioned him & he said "he knew of nothing out of which such a story could be manufactured" &c. &c. They both found themselves mistaken & were evidently abashed, — both labored hard with many words to convince J. that they had the most friendly intentions towards him. Chad. in his remarks to the scholars said he was & had ever been friendly to him & to his family, said he, "we respect him, we love him" — we are well satisfied that he is fully competent to instruct you in every thing you wish to learn." Macomber said he should be willing to affirm under oath that he was amply qualified &c. &c. Told the scholars he understood that Mr. Mitchell thought him an enemy, but that it was a base slander, whoever had told him so. &c. &c. Oh, they did talk silly. The "self convicted felon dies" you know. Well, you see Billington told Charles that very day that Macomber, before he went away after J. had engaged the school, had been round prejudicing the neighbors against Jo. & trying to make trouble. George Stinford said if the Committee did not turn him out he & others would put him out. Philbrooks was outrageous because he was not turned out, — but I do not apprehend the least trouble. Joseph is a match for any of them, & they will find him so.

But Chadbourn brought himself out at last finely — after he had finished his long & tedious, palavering speech to the school he turned to Joseph & said, "from the manner in which you [illegible] assailed me, when I first came in, I conclude you suppose [illegible] unfriendly" &c. &c. &c. (a long parade.) He then went on to apologize [illegible] his lack of words wherewith to answer, when thus assailed! [illegible] was often the case, in matters of business, when he had a great many cares on his mind, (as at present with his school) that he could not collect his thoughts, immediately, enough to answer a question, when put to him, but it had just now come to his mind who it was that told him. Well you see the droll of it was, that not two hours before, he had told Charles of two or three who had ~~been~~ to him with complaints, but he dared not, just in those circumstances, bring up for authority the names of a few unruly boys, who had threatened to turn the master out, before school begun. ~~But~~ What a long story I have made; I am afraid I might have written something more interesting, though I suppose you want to hear all about this. I did really intend to write a very serious sort of a moralizing letter this time, but I have filled it up with talk, as usual before I was aware of it. In my next I shall endeavor to moralize a little more.

Our temperance Society we ladies have named the "Phenix Temperance band", how you like it? Almeida gets along comfortably. They are all well. Judging from all accounts, Elia gets along swimmingly — He has tact, you know. Joseph has got the scholars to writing themes, & intends to have them declaim some — Your Stationary was very acceptable to us all. Charles says he will pay you next time he goes down. Your copies are very well done — I didn't know you could write so well. I have only this evening to write, & am sleepy & eyes ache, or I would write to Ann — If you have a chance you must let her read this. When you write next time, fill your sheet all over as thick as this page, will you? Let it be better worth writing, however — Good night affec'y Lucy.

Dear Father, I fain would write you a long letter with an abundance of
"Song" that we could not send some things before — We intended to send
them by Cleon, but he came along sooner than we expected — then Charles
carried them to Mr. Cutts, but finding that Mrs. Sargent was going to
Bangor last week, he went down to the City & got them again, but ere
he got them to Mr. Sargent's, she had gone; so we were obliged to wait
till this week. I am afraid you have needed them very much — The truth
is brother, I go to school, & what with our instable Compositions &c.
&c. my time is all taken up, so that unless I stay at home; as
today, I can do nothing at all. Do you see Ann often? Why don't
she write, & you too. Joseph gets along nicely in School — The Schol-
ars have really taken to writing themes. I am in the 17 section in
Algebra — Almeida gets along pretty comfortably with her four men
She tells Smith she must have more than 7/6 & I guess she will
get more — She has three Roman Catholic Irishmen & one
Englishman. A child of William Frost, about 5 years old
died last week, buried Sunday. Mrs. Kimball's brother, from
Bangor, Herman Horn talks some of commencing trade here
soon — A fine man, I guess. What a great snow-storm we have
had! Tell Ann when you see her, I will write to her as soon
as I can. Charles spends his time breaking out the new road

getting up wood, hauling meadow hay, going to Temperance meetings &c. &c. Mr. Haskell is going to deliver an address before the "Young men's Society" this week, & Mr. Doble, Universalist preacher, to our Society. I understand Olive Thurber is preparing ~~Mr. Barker~~ an address also. Shan't I go to work & beat her?

It is dark — good bye —

~~I will send you a fe~~

~~Above~~

Write much & often

News from folks away from home is always interesting but you know we always plod along about so. —

go. & I intend to learn something about Grammar this winter — Albion Cook is a first rate Grammarian. Mr. Sewall says you must study. Say, if the girls laugh & talk, you must study & write a good deal — You must not expect me to write a great deal while I am going to school — It is not so much matter now — after you go back to Brunswick we will all write — good bye —

Willie

Mr. Isaac S. Metcalf
Bangor

Jan 14/45

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
Sheet of paper, [illegible] [illegible] off [illegible]
[illegible] of it to write off my Temperance Song. I have written it in a hurry and have several alterations corrections &c to make in it.
[illegible]

I come before the Temperance band,
[illegible] steadfast souls, who heart and hand
[illegible] drive Intemperance from their
[illegible]

I come [illegible]
Not to descant upon the [illegible],
[illegible] Introduction long.
[illegible] preface a Song;
I come my friends just as I am,
[illegible]
I'll call aloud upon my muse —
Her aid I take, she'll not refuse; —
[illegible] yet, my friends, you cant expect
[illegible] you reflect
[illegible] all that has been said and sung
[illegible] body, old and young
Upon this all-important theme;
My subject of itself is stale, —
No marvel, therefore, if it fail
To interest you like a dream.
[illegible]
One half the [illegible]
About the tyrant Alcohol,
[illegible] consent enroll
[illegible] most peace-destructive foe.
[illegible]
The doings of this tyrant King
From first to last, I fain would sing
But could not, for my weight in gold,
One half his cruelties unfold; —
[illegible] if you'll all with patience wait
I will endeavor to relate
[illegible] of his heart-sickening deeds
At which [illegible] so often bleeds.
[illegible] is in his power
It is his chief delight to shower
[illegible] and woe upon his head,
[illegible] him clothes and home and bed.
[illegible]
He grasps a man and holds him [illegible]
[illegible] and staggering round & round,
Then throws him wildered on the ground
Or else, perchance, a man he'll pitch
Half crazed & wild into a ditch,
And keep him there till some kind
heart
With pity filled shall take his part,
And with a tender hand shall come
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible]
The jest of every boy he meets,
While they with stick or stone or club
[illegible]

This is not all the [illegible];
The sad effects of [illegible]
Are seen throughout the drunkard's
[illegible]
For cruel treatment of his wife
And family of children small
Who live in sorrow, one and all.
The fiery and malignant nature
Of this dread enemy of man,
Seems thus infused in every creature
On whom he lays his heavy hand.
The drunkard oft, with fury wild
Will fall on parent wife or child,
And with harsh words and cruel blows
Will [illegible] the abuse he [illegible].
[illegible]
His children all in terror fly,
His wife in silence standing by.
The strange effects of rum are such
[illegible];
But different ways the demon takes, —
Others desponding, sad it makes; —
Sometimes it makes one very silly
And then again it makes him wily;
Sometimes he's mad and very cross
Sometimes he's pleased & sometimes [illegible];
Sometimes he's filled with deep remorse;
Sometimes all other men he'll pity.
One day he'll lie, cheat and dissemble
The next with grief & shame he'll tremble.
One day abuse his poor wife Dolly,
The next repent bewail his folly.
One man I heard of, who [illegible]
Was sharply by his conscience [illegible],
And as he staggered home one night,
Aware that he did not requite
The patience of his faithful wife
Hoping to calm his inward strife,
Said he "If my wife's up, I'll lick her,
For why should she sit up and wait,
Burning out wood and candle light?
If she's abed, I'll surely kick her
[illegible] my supper [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]
Who daily goes to take his dram;
Expects his friends' consistencies
To atone for his deficiencies.
Of Alchohol I gave my song;
For him I might my verse prolong;
But that were needless — every day
We all may witness some affray,
Or else, perhaps, some mischief done,
Occasioned by the monster, Rum.
Milo for ill was long renowned;
Since drunkenness did here abound
To such degree that good men kept
Aloof, and oft in secret wept.

[illegible]
With fervent hearts, united hands,
Cooperating with each other,
As brother kindly helps his brother,
Have risen, and with mighty zeal
Are laboring for the common weal;
And soon we hope to see [illegible]
Those, who degraded and [illegible]
Have caused to us for many years,
Such store of sorrows griefs & tears.
Praying that heaven will kindly aid,
And bless these efforts which are made
With an abundant power & might—
I'll wish you all a kind good night.

Now brother, if you presume to say that I can't fabricate "Sugar Poetry" I will positively affirm that you are no judge.

Monday Mar. 17th. After School in the "School 'us" Charles came after me Friday night, so I went home. Joseph had another fracas with the S. S. C. the Saturday after you went away, (or rather with Mr. Theoph. Sargent). You know Mitchell told him to keep 14 weeks & Mr. S. was determined he should not keep but 12. Well that day (Sat.) the day before town meeting when a new Com. would be chosen, Mr. S. went to the Com. & got them into the school with him and he talked, and they talked & inquired of all the scholars about the school but got no word of complaint. Mr. Chandler [illegible] asked Angelia Frost if she thought the school as profitable, & if she could learn as much as last Winter, (she [illegible] [illegible]) The Com. found no fault with the school, but for the sake of peace, they [illegible] rather advised him to leave. But Jo. had no notion of pleasing Uncle Theoph. much, so he kept on. As might be expected, Messrs. Sargent, Stinchfield, Freeman & John Philbrooks have taken their children away. Mr. Henry Sargent is very bitter against Theoph. Mr. Stinchfield refused to furnish any more wood & Aron Hall supplied the school with wood from his own pile till he & Billington could haul a load. You see Mr. Sargent has always ruled the District & it seems hard to him that he cannot continue to do it. He concluded that he should not probably be chosen Agent this year, so he made a motion in town meeting that each district choose their own Agent, thinking, probably that there would be Stinchfields, Philbrooks &c. enough to put him in; but Billington told him to his face the other day, that he might set his heart at rest about it, for he could not come it this year. One morning when I went to school before the back of the stove & the door caved off. Mr. John [illegible] sent down to Mr. [illegible] to get some mortar to fasten it up with brick; the boy came back saying he couldn't get any. [illegible] said he ought to go down & if he did not give him some, [illegible] out his throat! you see to me! We got some & with the help of Daniel Holmes & Cook &c. fixed it up nicely.
[illegible] closed his school Sat. March 15th, having kept fourteen weeks. He says [illegible] quite a siege of it for the first time. Has grown poor [illegible] last two or three weeks considerable, having had a bad cold. Messrs. Kimball, Hartwell & Soloman were chosen S. S. C. — Very good ones, I think. Joseph (even our Jo) had a good many votes for 2d & 3d Com.— lacked only one or two votes I believe. Chadburn Macomber & Kittredge had no office whatever. Turner, Day & Soloman Select men. Be it known unto you, the Select Men have laid out a town road from Alder Stream to the south bank of the Piscataquis at Sargent's, (on the top of the County road, remember) and thence from the north bank of Piscataquis to Rich's corner, so called, leaving out the width of the river;— hoping you see that will induce the Commissioners to discontinue the ferry. Wasn't they mighty

[illegible] about it. [illegible]

[illegible] and pay of the [illegible] so as to set the county [illegible]

[illegible] It was voted in town meeting to raise

[illegible] dollars to lay out in roads, one up in [illegible]

road, & one road — I don't [illegible] whether or not.

It is concluded not to do any thing more to the road from

one house to the foot of [illegible] hill! What waste money

[illegible] away with it.

[illegible]

Milo 1845

March 1845

Brunswick

Milo Me
March 24

[illegible]

D[illegible]

[illegible]

cases yet [illegible]. Joseph came home last Sunday. I suppose he wrote you all the news about Germania [illegible] the splendid [illegible] &c. as he said he would write you a long letter. Joseph & Thomas are going to B[illegible] partly to see about a school & partly to go a shopping.

Sarah wrote not long since — said she had received a letter from you, but did not send it.

She says she likes at Brown's well. You know they are just the right sort of people to please. I have had an application from Mr. Howe [illegible] to teach that school, but did not take it as it was a short school & only a dollar per week. We have neither of us any school yet, & I am afraid shall not. However we must make the best of it and do up a quantity of studying if we are at home all summer. Arnold [illegible] wife is almost gone in Consumption, the Dr. said she could live but a few days. I watched with her last night. It is [illegible]

a sickly time about here. Marshall & Naomi Hill have both been quite sick - are better now.

Bradley & his man have ploughed up [illegible] days. Have sowed some today. Is rather a dry time now. Mr. [illegible] has a pair of twin boys named Calvin & Luther! D'ye like that? I am very sleepy & dull, besides being in a great hurry & write what I think of first. We want to see you, but as we cannot hope for that, at present, we want you should write often, particularly, every thing; your hopes & fears, joys & sorrows, thoughts & feelings; every thing. You know 'tis all interesting to us. We want to know how you get along & feel & think just as if you were at home. Almeida's folks are well. She has not got her spring work done much yet. I will try to write more to [illegible] Mother or [illegible] must finish this.

Ever your affectionate Sister Lucy.

P.S. We want Eliot to finish this out & put in 5 dollars more if [illegible]
[illegible] Galt must [illegible] [illegible]

I should be glad to write a great deal & tell you how much I rejoice [illegible] riches of [illegible] [illegible] been [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] than a feather all these things are compared with the unspeakable gift [illegible] been [illegible] for you [illegible] vanity

May 15. [illegible] Have been to the Land Agents (to the [illegible]) in order to get a chance [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] disappointed [illegible] never

I shall probably [illegible] to Château next week [illegible] in a great hurry.
Charles [illegible] busy [illegible] haven't time to write ([illegible] he has not [illegible] told me) [illegible] all this out [illegible] it, but I cannot.

[illegible] M. Wilson

May 18, '51

Brunswick

Bangor July 4th 1843.

Dear brother James

It being the memorable "fourth of July," I con-
sequently commence an epistle to you. You already know of my
being in Bangor & of my occupation here but have not, perhaps
been apprised that I passed through much tribulation ere I
was finally established in my present situation. I wrote you a few days
from Mr. [illegible] [illegible] of June. The next morning I went in the stage
with Mr. & Mary [illegible] as far as Mr. Dudley's to [illegible]. Mr. [illegible]
sent a note to me informing the District that he had engaged me to
teach the school. I left my trunk there as I came down the day before
so they knew I was coming, & as you [illegible] them, I felt almost a[illegible]
[illegible] with them; but instead of [illegible] me [illegible] with the
civility due to a stranger they [illegible] me with the all [illegible] and
[illegible] [illegible] Dudley had nothing to do with the business; that Mr. [illegible]
[illegible] was Agent & they believed he had engaged a teacher. They also told
me as if they did not know there was any such thing as [illegible] that the
District were very much dissatisfied with you; that you had a [illegible]
[illegible] school; that the scholars played [illegible] [illegible] in the [illegible] in
school &c. &c. Mr. Dudley [illegible] [illegible] that you [illegible]
a fellow but that he would advise you never to attempt to keep school
again if you could not keep the scholars from running over you &c. Well I
soon made the best of my way over to Mr. [illegible], alias "Uncle [illegible]." He
[illegible] you to the [illegible], so I waited in suspense till noon when he came home.
He had not engaged a teacher, but was [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
sending a teacher. [illegible] the school-house was all [illegible] pieces &c. [illegible]
[illegible] all the [illegible] [illegible] their own hands & then did not do it. People were
also dissatisfied with my wages, as they [illegible] it was not [illegible]

but [illegible] one week. [illegible] Mr. Walker engaged me for 3.00 and said I could get [illegible] [illegible] do [illegible] 7/6 — The Committee have not visited me yet & I fear when they do come & find how the District feel about the wages, they will be unwilling to give so much. Well I thought at first that considering all the [illegible] circumstances I had better go home again but Mr. Sherburne [illegible] advised me to stay & bustle round & got the house fixed &c. I felt very bad for a day or two & [illegible] [illegible] I need to, but I could not help it. Dudleys [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] do so [illegible] since I have been here. Common politeness required them to call on me even if I had [illegible] a perfect stranger, & certainly, as you boarded there, they ought to make some advances towards getting acquainted, or to say the least, ought not to have repulsed me when I made advances. But instead of that, they insulted me & hurt my feelings, a friendless & forlorn stranger, in their own house, & since then I have seen them three Sabbaths at meeting & they have never once spoken to me. I cannot imagine the reason of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], but suppose there must be some grudge on your account [illegible] [illegible]. I don't know but they are so verdant that they don't know what civility is, not to mention politeness. Mr. Sherburne says Dudleys [illegible] were ever so good & there was nobody like the master till you were gone & then they were the first to express dissatisfaction & mention every little fault. From all I can gather I judge that you were hardly strict enough in school & that on that account or some other, people made up a sight of lies about you. Mr. Dodge says it was a good school & [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the only fault he found was, that you had no instrument [illegible] to castigate the younguns. Mr. Moore said his children never learnt [illegible], but that there was a lack of order. Well I staid at Mr. Sherburne's from [illegible] [illegible] till Sunday, then I came to Moses Wiley's to board. They live in the new house next the schoolhouse, where Philip Randall lived last winter. [illegible] boarded [illegible] wife at Mr. [illegible] last winter. [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] do my own washing. [illegible] [illegible] altogether [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. Mr. Wiley is [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Dodge, [illegible] [illegible] I guess, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

not quite eighteen years old. Refinement ditto as Mr. Wiley. They have one child eight months old. I have from thirty to forty scholars; forty for a week or more past. Lydia Giles the oldest & Julia Mason the next. A hateful mortal, the latter isn't she? I suppose you can sympathize with me in my trials concerning Mr. Oscar Whitcomb, Charles Graffam & [illegible] [illegible] especially Oscar Whitcomb. "Seem if I should die" sometimes [illegible] his reading. There are some exceeding bright ones, especially the Mason girls & Benj. Dudley's youngest, Emily.

July 4th. Visited at Benj. Dudley's by invitation, & met there the Dudley girls. On being introduced by Mrs. Wiley, we saluted each other, & not another word passed between us, till when they started home, they asked me to call on them. I am not usually so stiffy, but in this case I am determined to "stand upon my dignity." [illegible] I like Mrs. Benj. D. very much. I am some acquainted at Mrs. [illegible]. Have called on Mrs. Buckman & Gullison, also up on the Hatch road. Must go up Garman very next week. I like the appearance of folks at Mr. Hatch's, also at Mr. Simmons, but Mrs. Sr. is [illegible] forbidding in her manners [illegible]. I think I shall like her. I guess you didn't visit enough, here did you? I close my school with singing. There are here some very good singers. I do love to hear little children's voices don't you? They have learned quite a number of new tunes since school commenced. I fear you cannot read this for I am very warm & tired & my hand trembles so, I write just as fast as I can. The boys were up to see me last Sabbath afternoon. Mr. Wiley's people have company every Sunday, laughing & carrying on. I have no table in my room & am forced to do all my writing in my lap, or go out in the [illegible] kitchen, which is grievous. Every body has their disagreeable things to get along with you know. We have meetings here every Sabbath and S. School. Some of the Students [illegible]. Folks don't turn out to meeting very [illegible], & only a dozen, fifteen or twenty children [illegible].

I shouldn't think the Students would try to [illegible] them. I wish you should write & tell me who are the clever folks here if you know. Also I want to know all about yourself. Do write me a long letter with lots of good advice. You know I am alone here. I haven't seen the boys but once. I received a note from Joseph yesterday. He said he had written to you. Tell me all about your visit at Boston. I am infiniment obligé for your lettre Français. Shall not dare attempt an answer in kind at present. I am progressing slowly in French, as I have time & opportunity, but I [illegible] a teacher. I do wish with you that I could have the benefit of your libraries. I long for something to read. Haven't many [illegible] here [illegible]. How miserable poor wretches like me do feel, who have just [illegible] permitted to sip into the fountain of intellectual enjoyment, and [illegible] begin to realize its sweetness, & then are obliged to stand aloof & see others drink their fill, while they hunger & thirst. However, "I'm thankful for what I've got, but I want some more".

Mother writes that Mary Barnes is happy as a kitten. I feared she would be homesick. They take comfort there I expect, but it is rather an unfavorable season for farmers, I should think. I fear Charles will not realize his expectations. He laid out pretty largely this year.

Mrs. Wiley & I went out in "Uncle Sam's" pasture for strawberries t'other day & a wicked, unbroken, five year old colt came at us full speed, his ears lopped & looking cross as could be. We [illegible] throw clubs at him then run till he got most to us & then throw things again & in that way we managed to get out of the pasture. I fainted almost away when I got out of the pasture, so [illegible] to near it that I was "near as [illegible] walking". I suppose we barely escaped with our lives. He would have stamped us under his feet if he had got to us. It makes me tremble every time I think of it.

One day this week the School house caught fire on the roof. Frightened the scholars [illegible] half to death. Another day the plastering fell down on our heads. They ought to have a new School house. Also some [illegible]. The children trouble me much looking out the windows.

Do write to me, also to Milo. Mother told me to mention to you whether you had not better ask Mr. [illegible] for the chance to go in there as Assistant again, lest you get no better chance. In haste Good bye.

Most affectionately

Sister Lucy.

Miss L. H. Metcalf

Bangor

July 6th 1845

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July 9th 1845

Bowd. Coll.

Bangor July 27th 1842.

Dear Brother Isaac

Your welcome letter was recieved in due season. I thank you much and would fain recieve such an one every week.

Since I wrote to you before, Mr. Wiley has bought the small red house opposite Mr. Buckman's and moved thereinto for which reason I left there, and do now board at Bill Dow's of Milo. "Ah! my honor, my honor, to what infamy art thou fallen!" I don't know as I quote correctly, but those words came into my mind in thinking of my non-acquaintance with Dows & Browns at Milo, and contrasting it with the necessitous situation in which I ~~am there~~ placed viz. that there was no other place to which I could go. I found it too far to walk to Mr. Wiley's after they moved, and could find no other place excepting Dow's. He lives here this summer, having taken the Mill here, or a part of it. I have no particular objections to the place excepting for the name of it. I am certainly much better accommodated here than at Wiley's. Mr. D. purchased table, chairs, glass, lamps &c. &c. for the occasion. He went yesterday to Milo to do his haying, leaving Mrs. D. and I to keep house till he returns, which will probably be a fortnight or more.

You will know what sort of a place I live in, if you can recollect the old Ark standing between the new house below the school house (where Randall lived) and Mr. Gullivers. Looks more like a Barn than House outside, but pretty respectable inside. I was told for my consolation t'other day, that Capt. Stevens family winter ed in it once. Mrs. Dow is very particular to do her best by me and

is really very kind. She, you know, is aware that there was a difference in the families at Mile, whereas Mrs. Wiley was ignorant of any such distinction! She does my washing and I don't know if [illegible] will board any cheaper besides or not.

Among other interesting matter, I have to advise you of the castigation of Oscar Whitcomb by me, also of the ejection of Charles Graffam from school, by the word of my power. Oscar whispered and laughed &c. one day & I called him into the floor. Then he made faces to the great amusement of some little boys: so I griped his ear pretty hard with my thumb nail, when he said "let my ear alone" and swore a big oath at me. As soon as I could sufficiently compose myself, I took him & blistered both hands! I would rather, on some accounts, have punished any other scholar, for my [illegible] one is so rejoiced at my downfall [illegible] his, that they can hardly contain themselves. He is a very cowardly disposition & was completely cowed down at once. He has been as humble & submissive since, as you could wish. Charles Graffam is more disagreeable & ugly than Oscar about some things. He refused to mind me about reading & I gave him his choice to obey my orders, or leave the school. He considered a moment, & absquatulated. I was not sorry. People tell me I did just right, but they say my name will be all "riddled out" ish in that neighborhood. I conclude people like me from the number of scholars I have; more they say than ever attended constantly before. I have about 40 average; [illegible] [illegible]

One day some of my boys played truant. I chastised them not that time, but made them stand in solemn column while I lectured them long & loud on the evil consequences &c. &c. Well again, they went to the pond at noon to sail & they said the boat got hitched in the boom so they could'nt get back; so they

were gone till school was most half done. There were five of them. I used no words, but ferruled them all, individually & collectively, severely, and made them all sit down in the desk. Then I told the girls that when they came in from recess they might all hoist their fingers & shame them, which, of course, they were very ready to do. Last of all, I deprived them of their recess for a week! I have not been and do not expect to be, since, more troubled with [illegible]! There is no telling how much better it is to take such unruly boys & train them thoroughly to begin with. They know now and feel that the "wall of partition" is established, and they dare not overstep the bounds. Mrs. Brown, who, you know, if you are acquainted with her, is a very decided character - strait as H with her children, and an old School-ma'am - says the children for sometime have been in the habit of doing as they pleased here; and I judge she is correct from the [illegible] of the school when I came here. I can't have young ones round me unless they will mind; & if they are ugly, I'll make 'em behave. They shall. Folks say they admire my spunk in turning Grafton out of school. He has always been a [illegible] in school but the mistresses dared not punish him for fear of offending his folks. The Berry boys also are great trials to me. Did they go to school to you? I suppose however I shall be troubled no more with any of the crew; Fernalds, Berrys, Graftons & what not. They have none of them been since the turn-out-ation of Charles. The worst is their own. If they knew it did not trouble me [illegible] they would come. As for Lottie Buckman, she is, as you say, a [illegible]table trial, but such a queer [illegible] withall that I can't help laughing at her sometimes. Jim is a bright boy. Lydia [illegible] your old school-studies Philosophy, Geography & Arithmetic. Emma does not [illegible] and I am not sorry. [illegible] Sylvia Dudley

does not go. I like her much. I think her a substantial character. Whoso gets her for a wife, will do well, in my opinion. Mary Howe does not go - She is at the city learning the Dressmaker's trade. Julia Ann Mann is the most hateful (to speak in plain language) person of the women kind that ever I was acquainted with. Think you not so? The Mowers children are all pretty and well behaved. The Randalls also very pretty. They have some two very pretty and good sisters. Their mother, who died last winter, was an excellent woman, I am told. Their father a drunkard. Sally Tuck is another despicable little girl, I think. However, I suppose it behooves you and I in particular to be on our guard about taking an "antipathy" because our likes and dislikes are apt to be very strong, you know. You inquire for Philip Randall. He has moved to Hampden. We have quite a little S. S. here; though not half the day school scholars attend. It all depends on our Student (Mr James) and the school-ma'am. It is strange how little interest these people take in meetings & S. S. Mr. James expatiates largely on singing. Will have the scholars sing in S. S. I have learned them quite a number of tunes. He brought me a book of tunes yesterday:- The S. S. Harp, to teach the children from. Said he was coming into school yesterday, but didn't get over till just as I dismissed.

It seems to me there is a great dearth hereabouts in every sense of the word. A mental moral & spiritual dearth. I often think of this Sermon of Mrs. Finney's "Kindred hearts." I believe I never felt quite so much alone before as regards having any associates of kindred tastes & feelings with myself. There is not one person with whom I have to do, who can enjoy the things which most interest me, or whose thoughts & sentiments seem to run in the same channel with mine. I do not consider that there is any [illegible] difference - I have not pride enough for that

but owing to education, & to the precept and example of our most excellent _Mother_, my taste is so much more refined! that I cannot enjoy, in common with the generality of these people, the low talk & jesting - it deserves not the name of conversation - not to mention profanity, which abounds among both sexes. This place is not to be compared to _Hobhood_ for mental culture & intellectual refinement! Not to _speak of morality_ and religion. I know of but two professors of Religion in the Neighborhood:- Mrs. Clark & Mr Sherburne. I think it must be injurious to any one to be situated as I am. I fear I am stationary or going backward, rather than advancing; in wisdom and knowledge, both as relates to the mind and heart. And yet it must be in a measure my own fault if it is so, for I ought to reject the bad & receive the good; also to impart good to those around me. I confine my labors to the school & sabbath school mostly, however. I hope I may do some good there. Ann sent me an excellent book, one of Mr. Pomeroy's: Miss Sewsing's letters to the young. I lose one half the pleasure I might derive from it, because, when I find a beautiful passage, I have no one to enjoy it with me. You know how natural it is for us to want others to like what we like. If I read, people cannot comprehend nor realize the beauty thereof.

Respecting Dudleys - I have not called on them yet nor they on me. They never speak to me at meeting. I am as intimate at Benj. Coolidge's as any where - perhaps more so. I like Mrs. C. and Sylvia much. Juliet Dudley's health is very poor. They fear she is in Consumption. I fear I do wrong. Tell me what you think about it. Ought I, as a _Christian_, to subdue my feelings, forgive & forget, & call on them, or not? They have certainly been _rude_ & _unkind_ to me. All the neighbors notice it. It seems to me it would look like _creeping_ after them; notwithstanding I don't

[illegible] to. But I have filled my sheet with my own concerns without hardly speaking of any one else. I just want to inquire, though about one thing. Mrs. Dudley has proclaimed all about that you had every meal that you was absent, deducted from the price of board, so that they did not have as much by /6 on a week, as they expected for boarding you. Was it so, & if so was'nt it customary & right? You know if one is so disposed they can make ones words or actions appear in a very ridiculous light. Julia Ann Mann told Mrs. Wiley that mine is the best school they have had here for a long time. Probably the next person the same [illegible] as bad. I did think of going to Foxcroft in the fall, but have about given it up. Money is most more [illegible] something else.

Mr. Isaac S. Metcalf.
Brunswick
Maine

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Bangor
July 29th 1845

Bond. Co 11.
July [illegible]
1845

Do write me good long letters [illegible] often [illegible]
L. H. M.
[illegible] have written in a great hurry, as usual. I suppose I can let you have some time [illegible] school is done. Don't know how [illegible] have not been to see me yet. Do write much. Affecly [illegible]

I have not heard from home very lately. You know they are not famous letter writers there. Charles was down here a fortnight ago. Mary [illegible] enjoys herself much there. I presume her summer's residence in the country will do her good. You have never seen our little Jane yet. People call her my little girl. I went to the city a week ago with Mr. Sherburne. Saw the boys & did a little shopping. They seem happy enough, though doubtless they have their trials in common with you & I and the rest of mankind. One Mr. Jones, a [illegible] writing master, teaches writing school in my dormitory now. Fifteen evenings for a dollar. Came into school & invited me to go.

I have tested on your coming home [illegible] to tell you many things [illegible] cannot do. My [illegible] all write.

[illegible] sep. 14 [illegible]

[illegible] Hopefully they are expecting a Representative from our families. Then this term [illegible] be disappointed in future. Had 100 scholars the first day. They expect 175 or 200. Will probably have as many as that. [illegible] Who is the Male Assistant?

I have you before me the last letter I received from you, dated Aug. 3 [illegible] also [illegible] which we received last Friday, dated [illegible] Sept [illegible], and will gladly answer them. It is a rainy day. Mother & Charles have gone to meeting with Nelly, & I am alone with "our Jane".

We are all very sorry that you are obliged to leave [illegible] the fall [illegible] as it must be so we will hope it is all for the [illegible]. I suppose we might have contrived to send you some [illegible] money, were it not that Ann is trying to establish [illegible] [illegible] again, [illegible] suppose she wrote you about it, she commences tomorrow a private school of about sixteen [illegible]) and needed to use all the toys & all she could furnish. I had hoped to send you a part of my school money, but [illegible] all I can spare, which will not be as much as I [illegible] if I go to Bangor, as I shall need to expend more myself for [illegible] &c. By the way, had I better go? I have about concluded to. Seems to be a pretty good chance. I am sorry for your ill luck Examination day. Why didn't you say you was sick, & get excused? Do take care of your health. Being out so late evenings at your class suppers, bonfires &c. is not the thing for you. You were very fortunate about getting a ride to [illegible]. I hope you will have a pleasant time & enjoy yourself there this fall. You must try & see how much good you can do among the Universalists. Take care & keep on the "right side" of them, that is, so far as you can & be decided about the conscientious performance of duty. As they are the most influential party your success in school may depend in a great measure on getting their good will; yet, knowing your sentiments to be different from their own, they will [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] & decided [illegible] [illegible]. They might, & undoubtedly would, be pleased to have you [illegible] with them & would like you all the better, but still, if you show yourself a firm, decided character, a Congregationalist Christian, yet always kind & affable to all, you will be more respected; your memory will be respected in after years. It is very pleasant indeed to be beloved by those among whom we are placed; but in some cases I think if we cannot [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], the former is not only the most preferable, but necessary.

In your case, as the Teacher of a high school, it seems very necessary that you hold yourself up, as it were; not proud & disdainful, but dignified; the calm dignity of a Christian.
I would be very careful to avoid familiarity. I do not mean low familiarity; you are in no danger of that. You have no taste for it; but from your manner, your scholars should feel that there is a difference between you & them; that you are really above them in a certain sense, & that a very important sense. I perceive I am writing quite a lecture, especially for a younger sister to an older brother, but I do it in true sisterly kindness & you must not be offended. I want you should always give me advice & reproof, when I am wrong, & caution when there is danger of going astray. In continuation of my subject, (the aforesaid lecture) I think, from my poor knowledge of "human nature," and from various circumstances that have come to my knowledge, as well as from your own account, that you would have been more successful as a teacher in the far-famed Sherburne District, City of Bangor, had you been more distant, dignified & commanding in your manner & less familiar. You were very kind in the family where you boarded & very accommodating as a boarder, ~~[illegible]~~ but perhaps carried it a little too far; so far as in some measure to lose your authority, or at least injure it, & lessen the respect of others for you. Bringing wood & water &c. for the old ladys occasionally, was kind & accommodating in you & was doubtless well received at the time, but still too much of any such thing, or of familiar conversation might, when thought over afterwards, seem like letting yourself down somewhat. Perhaps I am mistaken, however. I am "young yet," & ~~after~~ a few years experience may change my views, but it seems to me that a teacher who really feels kind & as he ought, may appear kind & affable & sociable in a measure with parents & scholars & still keep authority in reserve & not only have it in reserve, but let the scholars all feel that it is so. Mrs. Monroe, who is acquainted in Turner, says 'tis a very pretty place, the young folks are very sociable & clever &c. As for your social parties, I don't know as I would "eschew them altogether"; and yet if you go to one, and not to all, you may cause offence. When you go, you will distinguish yourself by your good sense & intelligence rather than by great ease of manners & expertness at talking "small talk." As Ann writes to the boys, "better do a little than so much, in speech & manners." Students, (literary) characters, are not expected to possess that ease & polish of manners which those do who are accustomed to society & have had constant intercourse with the world for years. 'Tis not their trade. Their business is with the inner, rather than the outer man. Something of this same ease of manners is, I am sure, desirable & necessary to every one, but, ~~upon~~ according to

my notions; you learned folks "ought to have something of more depth & value on which to depend for success in life." Am I right? If not enlighten me. Well, having discoursed upon morals, policy & sentiment at a great length I will now answer some of your inquiries about my School &c. I got honorably through & closed up my business Friday Aug. 27th. Buckman and some others desired me to stay & keep private school another month, but I prized my freedom too much to be again enslaved. I gave my scholars books the last day & every scholar in school save Oscar Whitcomb! returned some little trifle for me to keep as a memento. That was of course, quite gratifying to me. I could tell how well they liked me you know, by the pains the parents took to fix up something to give. Mond. afternoon, before the close, we had a Pic Nic. Some 50 or 60 present including the scholars. Very pleasant time; principally under direction of Mr. James, who came into school two or three times talked to the Children, formed a Cold Water Army &c. Folks in that region, you know are very queer, remarkably unsophisticated &c. Hardly one of them knew what a Pic Nic was — never one of them been to one but me. I took the sole charge, making preparations, selecting a spot &c. Some called it "Pig beat", others "Pig meat," Pit Nic, Pic Nit, and so on. Laughable business, I assure you. However we got the table arranged in fine style, in a beautiful grove back of Mr. Eldon's house, & about 3 o'clock Mr. James came up from the City. Parents & scholars, all who went, except ½ dozen young ladies, G. Gaynes Lydia Giles, Emma Clark &c. who staid at the grove, assembled at the schoolhouse & marched in procession, ~~headed by~~ the minister & school-ma'am to the grove, where we were received by the aforesaid young ladies with a spirited cold water song. We had a beautiful swing out there on two tall trees. We sung, conversed & talked eat & drank, &c. & Mr. James read my old Temperance Address, which I had modified to render it appropriate, & then rendered public thanks for Miss Metcalf's, with Temperance Address. We had, in addition sundry toasts in which Metcalf & the Misses Gaynes... It is astonishing how those Dudley folks have acted this Summer. They would not go to the Pic Nic by the way, I understood by way of Mrs. Philbrooks many lies by like about you. Many things they say were said about me which I know you never said. They say you praised me up so much & said so much about me, my beauty &c. that when they came to see me, they were actually disgusted with me — couldn't bear the sight of me &c. Query, which is the most disgusting in appearance, Mary Jane Dudley or I? For awhile I thought it my the fault was my own in part; & finally overcame my own feelings so much as to call there, although they never called on me. I had an excuse that Octavia was sick. Mary J. & Juliett treated me with barely civility. Susannah came into the room & sat down, her back almost towards me & spoke not a word. I inquired kindly after Juliett's health &c. and took my leave without being asked to stay longer or to come again. Mrs. Hen. Dudley had a long talk with me the night before I came away. She told me she was up stairs with Juliett when I first came there & heard all that passed below. ~~Her feelings~~ were much hurt, she could have cried for me herself &c. Said after I went away, & Mrs. J. Dudley came up stairs she told her they did wrong, she feared my feelings were hurt. Mrs. J. Dudley said she didn't care, hoped they were &c. She said they were strange girls. She didn't blame me at all for the course

[illegible] taken. Had felt bad for me all Summer, [illegible] not engaged myself; had been on the point of speaking about it [illegible] times but being relative, delicacy prevented &c. [illegible] she hoped I would make up my mind to take the school again next Summer, when this would all be forgotten &c. [illegible] Mr. P. have been very friendly to me, & sweet little Emily kissed & hugged me three different times & cried when I came away. [illegible] for [illegible] & great [illegible] David Walton. They both [illegible] as [illegible] the latter [illegible] called [illegible]. W. F. Hale is a constant visitor at [illegible]. Mr. & Mrs. [illegible] were very kind to me. I almost forgot to tell you that Mr. Walker & two Students found their way into my school the last afternoon, just when I didn't want them. Mr. Walker's engagement with Eliz. Doe is broken by her.

We are as much disappointed as you can be that you don't come home this fall, but don't dare to say much about it as it should make you more discontented where you are. You must try to make yourself contented & happy there & come [illegible] spirit if possible. You must write very often & [illegible]

Sept 23d 1845
Susan

Sept 18/1845

Sept 18

[illegible]

[illegible] I have been thinking [illegible]

I will console myself by talking [illegible]

[illegible] grow [illegible]

[illegible] your good [illegible]

[illegible] ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible]

[illegible] year; yet, as you say, I think I should have been happier, if not more thankful, could [illegible]

been at home. Never before since my remembrance have we spent a Thanksgiving with so small a family. Almeda & the children were here, but they reminded us more strongly of our loneliness. Two years ago we were all together. One has been taken, never to return; others are absent, and we know not that we shall ever meet again. Ere another year shall have completed its course, some of us may lie by his side in the silent grave. A feeling of sadness comes over me when I think of these things. I have brothers — dear, kind brothers — but they are far from me. I may never see them all together again. Home is no longer where they live. They have gone, each to find a home for himself. To be sure, they will come & see us once in a while, (often, too, I hope) but we can no longer look forward to the time when they will come home to stay, as they used to. But I will desist, and be thankful that Heaven spares their lives and health; and oh, may they be instruments of usefulness wherever they may be. Though we may be separated much of the time here on earth, it is comparatively a short season & of little importance, if we are prepared for a happy meeting in that land of holiness and joy where "parting is unknown", where "tears and farewells shall be o'er."

I knew but little respecting your choice of an avocation for life, but was not prepared for so decided an opinion as you expressed against the Gospel Ministry. I don't know what is best, and am not capable of advising; may you be guided in all things

by his Wisdom "who giveth to all men liberally". As you mentioned, people will naturally expect more of you for receiving a "liberal education". I hope, and expect their expectations will be realized in full! Am glad you so much feel your responsibility. If with meekness & dependence, we seek to know the will of God, we may hope to be directed in the way of duty. It seems to me of not so much importance where we are stationed, if we fulfil the duties of our station and make ourselves useful to mankind.

I am trying to study some this winter, but cannot make much progress in French without a Teacher. I read loud evenings. Have been reading "Night Thoughts". I have read it twice before, but had no idea it was half so good till now. I wish we had more books! We have enough such as they are, but I long to get hold of some of the good Modern works; Prof. Upham's, or any other. Wish I could get Upham's Intellectual Philosophy to read & study this winter. We ought to have the reading of some good Religious and Literary paper or periodical; New York Evangelist, Congregational Visitor or something else. Having more leisure than usual for reading, I feel more than usual that there is here a great dearth of good reading. However, we are blessed ~~with~~ in that respect, more than many others. I fear we don't sufficiently value & use what we have. Wish I could peep into your College Library. Suppose you would like to yourself, this Winter, wouldn't you?

It has been quite sickly about here; also in Bangor and all about. Mr. Stinsford died quite suddenly a few weeks since. Mrs. Mason Meservy was buried last

Sabbath and Mr. Severance's child a week or two since. A Mr. Angroves of Sebec was brought out of the woods dead last week. Died of Typhus fever. Funeral today. Niles Carver is very sick, also Mr. White. Mrs. Battles has been dangerously sick. Is better now. The whooping cough and measles are in town. Hope Almeda's children won't have them. Naomi Hill teaches the small school in the Village; Albina Kittredge teaching in Kilmarnock, and Olive Farber the small school in Sebec. Charles had a letter from Sam Farber in the woods last week. He has been laid up most ever since he went in, with a badly cut foot; laid open to the bone six inches on the instep, he said. He tells Charles to "pick up his duds & go to Wisconsin with him when he goes. The children don't any of them go to school yet. Perhaps they may some. I went into Barker's school Christmas day. Intend to visit Ed. Snow's at the Mills some day. Do you know much about him? He enquired particularly about you. The story is, there is going to be a dancing school here this winter. Some of 'em had a ball Thanksgiving evening. Went home after breakfast next morning! Gilmore has not been here yet this winter. Is coming when Charles gets his lumber. He has not yet been able to get any. There is none to be had for money. Labor is very high & scarce. Almeda finds it very difficult to get up her wood. Cannot without money in hand. Charles has sold both yoke of his oxen. Has only the colt to get up his wood. For the oxen he got 26, in money, which he laid out, 37, I believe, and the rest a draft on Walter Brown which he gave to Joseph. The steers he sold for beef in Bangor, and paid the money away to men whom he owed, Mosier, Lake &c. He wants much to sell Donkey. He is threatened with cost on his taxes, which last year were 60, and probably as much or more this year. He has so much to do & no help that I don't know how he will get along. Every body has their troubles you know. He no more than many others, perhaps.

part relating to the Oregon Question.

We'll take back all intimations, advice &c. about matters and things, when you make choice of some sensible, discreet amiable person, which I would do as soon as I had decided "what to do for a living" and how to do it! Good bye write soon

In much love, Sister Lucy.

Milo Jan, 1st

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Mr. Isaac S. Metcalf

Gardiner

Maine

Care of J. S. Mitchell Esq.

Lucy H. Metcalf
Milo
Jan 1st, 1846

Jan. 3d, 1846
Richmond
Gardiner